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Iraq, Turkey Sign Cooperation Accord

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq and Turkey signed a cooperation accord here on Friday centered on trade, agriculture and petroleum, the official INA news agency reported.

The accord was signed by Iraqi Deputy Commerce Minister Hatem Samarrai and by Turkish Commerce Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh, the head of a 90-member delegation on an official visit to Iraq.

The document also restarts a joint commission between the two countries on economic and commerical cooperation. (Contd on Pg. 14)

Israel Set to Close Palestinian Office in Bait-ul-Moqaddas

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is to demand the Palestinian Authority close its Religious Ministry office on Temple Mount in East Bait-ul-Moqaddas, the daily *Haaretz* reported Friday.

The new rightwing government believes the office is a clear violation of the Oslo autonomy accords which ban activity by the Palestinian self-rule Authority in Israeli-annexed East Bait-ul-Moqaddas, the newspaper said. (Contd on Pg. 14)

Chechen Shootout Sows Panic, Death Among Refugees

GROZNY, Russia (Reuter) — A weary stream of villagers fleeing their ruined homes in southwestern Chechnya ran into a bloodbath on Thursday as escaping Chechen fighters and Russian troops exchanged fire, eyewitnesses said.

Under a burning sun, hundreds of people were carrying their scant belongings on their backs or carts and driving dozens of cattle down the dusty road from the village of Gekhi when the shooting started.

What happened next was a nightmare scene of screaming, running and falling refugees, panicking livestock and flying bullets that put more than 20 civilians in hospital and left an unknown number dead on the road.

It was at Gekhi, about 30 km (20 miles) southwest of the regional capital Grozny, where Chechnya's fragile six-week truce erupted in a fierce battle on Tuesday between local fighters, led by field commander Doka Makhayev, and Russian forces.

Russian air strikes left much of the village in ruins.

Reuter photographer Vladimir Svartsevich, who was at the scene on Thursday, said it appeared that a group of separatist fighters were attempting to escape the army's encirclement of Gekhi by mingling with the refugees.

Meanwhile, Russian planes dropped bombs on the Chechen village of Gekhi on Friday despite assurances by local people that fighters had left it.

Reuter correspondent Alastair Macdonald saw three bombs hitting the village and sending orange clouds of smoke and dust into the skies.

Local people, waiting in scorching sun at a military cordon and barred from returning to Gekhi, about 30 km (20 miles) southwest of the Chechen capital Grozny, said there had been bombardments earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, Chechen independence fighters attacked Russian positions near the southern mountain village of Shatoi on Friday af- (Contd on Pg.14)

France Links Defense Cooperation to Peace Process

PARIS (AFP) — France warned Thursday that strengthened military cooperation with Israel depends on the Middle East peace process staying on track, diplomatic sources said.

Defense Minister Charles Millon told Israeli officials that he wanted the peace process to "continue and make progress" following the election of right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"If that is the case, France would envisage strengthening its military cooperation with Israel," he said, cited by ministry officials.

Israel and France signed a framework agreement in March 1994 allowing arms research, restoring military cooperation between the two countries for the first time since 1967.

President Jacques Chirac, during a visit to Saudi Arabia last week, called for the peace process to continue on the basis of land for peace, which the new Israeli government rejects.

In related developments Thursday, Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said he will be traveling to the Middle East in about 10 days' time in a new bid to boost the peace process.

Speaking on French radio he said he would meet political leaders in a variety of countries to examine the stalled process, which he described as "in a state of waiting and suspension."

And he warned: "If the waiting goes on, it will give increasingly encouraging signs to the enemies of peace."

President: Strong Iran Not Worried About U.S. Sanctions

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here Thursday said that the Iranian nation should not have the slightest worry over the U.S. sanctions on Iran because these sanctions will prove to be total failure.

He made it clear that Iran is not in need of the U.S. and is not dependent on America and, therefore, the nation need not to be concerned about the sanctions.

Now that the zealous Iranian specialists are working relentlessly and with remarkable determination and have succeeded in meeting all the needs of the nation, the U.S. cannot do anything, the president said.

Referring to the practice of double standard policy by the U.S. administration in its realtions with the Islamic states, he reiterated that the hostile and discriminatory policies (Contd on Pg.14)

Turkey to Start Reopening Evacuated Kurdish Villages

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's pro-Islamic Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan has announced Turkey will start reopening Kurdish villages in the southeast which have been forcefully evacuated.

The Turkish press said in Friday reports that Erbakan had told aides from his Welfare Party that the time was ripe to reopen many of the evacuated villages as the security situation had considerably improved recently in the region.

An Interior Ministry report prepared earlier this year said more than 2,400 villages in 20 southeastern and eastern provinces had been evacuated in recent years, forcing a population of over 275,000 people to leave their homes.

(Contd on Pg.14)

EU Steps Up Pressure for Waiver on Cuba Sanctions Law

France Threatens Retaliation

Compiled From Dispatches

TEHRAN — European Commission President Jacques Santer has written to Bill Clinton calling on the U.S. president to block implementation of a key aspect of U.S. legislation designed to tighten the economic blockade of Cuba and warning of possible retaliatory measures, AFP reported Friday.

The European Union is seeking to persuade Clinton to grant a six-month waiver on title III of the Helms-Burton legislation, which grants U.S. citizens the right to claim damages in U.S. courts from companies which now own assets confiscated during the Cuban revolution.

EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels on Monday and Tuesday will discuss possible counter measures, ranging from taking the issue to a formal disputes panel at the World Trade Organization to the introduction of measures which would allow for counter-suits against U.S. companies in Europe.

Clinton has until July 15 to decide whether to grant a waiver. Despite intense pressure from the EU, Canada and Japan, such a move would be politically difficult for (Contd on Pg.14)

Some U.S. Troops to Shift in Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (Reuter) — Some U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia will be moved to more secure locations as a precaution following last month's truck bomb attack in Dhahran, the Defense Department said on Thursday.

"It's quite clear that there will be some movement to some place. I do think there will be some movements of some troops," Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said at a briefing. (Contd on Pg.14)

Hague Arrest Warrants Focus Attention on IFOR

SARAJEVO (Reuter) — Mediators in Bosnia and world governments welcomed international arrest warrants issued on Thursday for the two "most wanted" men in the former Yugoslav republic.

The UN Criminal Tribunal for (Contd on Pg.14)



SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (July 10): The daughter and son of a Muslim allegedly killed by Serbs in 1992 weep over their father's body during the funeral in Pazaric. The bodies of nine Muslim men were exhumed Monday from a mass-grave in the village of Svrake close to Sarajevo.

(AFP PHOTO)

Hamas May Launch More Attacks

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS (AFP) — Israel is bracing for another Hamas bombing in Bait-ul-Moqaddas and clashes on the West Bank amid Arab anger at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hardline peace policies, military sources said Friday.

The Zionist state has received several warnings this week that the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) is planning a martyrdom-seeking attack and security has been stepped up on Bait-ul-Moqaddas buses, said the sources quoted by the *Yediot Aharonot* newspaper.

Searches are being carried out at bus stops and drivers have been urged to be extra cautious, they said.

Hamas and the Islamic Jihad carried out four bombings — two on Bait-ul-Moqaddas buses — in February and March, killing 58 people.

The Israeli Army also fears violent protests and terror attacks will take place on the West Bank because of the political deadlock, the sources said.

"The West Bank region is getting hot," one said.

They said clashes in the flashpoint town of Al-Khalil Wednesday, when a flashbomb was thrown at an Israeli Army checkpoint, were a warning of violence to come.

A Palestinian source quoted by the *Yediot* warned that the current calm was "the silence before the storm."

Hamas and the Youth wing of President Yasser Arafat's Fatah Movement have both called on Palestinians to take up arms against Israel and launch a new Intifada (uprising).

Palestinians were dismayed by Netanyahu's refusal to soften his (Contd on Pg.14)

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In The Name of Allah

And thus have We made in every town the great ones to be its guilty ones, that they may plan therein; and they do not plan but against their own souls, and they do not perceive.

(HOLY QORAN) (6:123)

OPINION

Helms-Burton Law: EU Shoulders a Historic Responsibility

The U.S. has targeted a Toronto-based mining group, Sherritt International, in its first action under the provisions of the controversial Helms-Burton Act. Nine executives of the company have been warned that they and their families will be barred from the U.S. unless the company disinvests from Cuba.

The U.S. move is a dangerous measure threatening the peace of international trade because of its extraterritoriality and because it violates the provisions of the World Trade Organization.

Though the bipolar order has collapsed, the world is not favorable to U.S. hegemonic tendencies. This has fortunately been brought home to the EU member states, Japan, Canada and a host of other countries.

These countries have realized that they should not surrender to the U.S. Apparently, they have decided not to submit to U.S. blackmail: European Commission President Jacques Santer has called on Bill Clinton to block the implementation of a key aspect of the Helms-Burton Law designed to tighten the economic blockade of Cuba. He has warned of possible retaliatory measures.

France, too, has warned that it has envisaged "appropriate" measures, alone or with its European partners, if the act were applied.

The warnings must be good enough to bring home to U.S. politicians that they cannot violate international rules and regulations with impunity. They should realize that the world arena is not open to their commercial bullying. It is not easy to undermine WTO laws without any repercussion.

The EU and other industrialized countries shoulder a great responsibility at this juncture. Free trade is threatened by the U.S. politicization of certain issues--human rights, international trade, etc.--for obtaining short-term gains at home. Unfortunately, it has become a fashion in U.S. foreign policy today.

One day it is Iran and Cuba, another day it is America's strategic allies and economic partners. If the U.S. is allowed to continue this policy, we are sure to see other areas of common interest incorporated in the U.S. agenda of sanctions, to be resorted to for unilateral action against any country opposing U.S. hegemony.

In their meeting in Brussels on Monday and Tuesday, EU foreign ministers should take a firm stance against U.S. trade hegemony. Not only will they serve their nations, but they will also serve Third World countries. The Third World will rally behind them in this historic decision.

Bangladeshi Minister of Communications Confers With President

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- The Bangladeshi Minister of Communications Mohammad Nassim, here on Thursday, met with President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

According to IRNA, in the meeting the Bangladeshi minister voiced his country's interest in using Iranian advanced telecommunications facilities.

Nassim who is on a visit to Iran to attend the ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), conveyed the warm greetings of the president and the prime minister of Bangladesh to President Rafsanjani.

He said Bangladesh is committed to all the agreements already signed between the two countries and called for development of friendly and traditional relations between the two nations.

He also said the Islamic Republic of Iran has made great achievements in the technological know-how of communications and that he is interested to sign agreements on transfer of technology in the field to his country.

He went on to say that President Rafsanjani's visit to Bangladesh has opened a new chapter in bilateral relations, adding that the people and officials of his country would never forget President Rafsanjani's visit.

The Iranian president welcomed development of relations between Tehran and Dhaka and said Iranian nation and government deplore the current differences and conflicts in Bangladesh and hoped for building understanding and stability in the large Muslim state.

The president said reconstruction and development is possible in a state of tranquility and understanding and Iran is ready to offer Bangladesh its technological and industrial know-how.



Austria Praises Significant Role of Iran in the Region

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- Austria is aware of the constructive and important role the Islamic Republic plays in the region, said the Austrian Parliamentary Vice-Speaker, Heinritch Naiser in Vienna Wednesday.

According to IRNA, Naiser made the remark in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Vienna Mehdi Mohtashami.

He evaluated the two countries' relations as good and having historical bonds and roots, and called for expansion of the mutual relations.

The Austrian official said that mutual contacts and consultations at different levels as well as the extensive economic cooperation between the two countries including the activities of Austrian companies in Iran, are indicative of Austria's positive assessment of Iran's situation.

He said the Austrian Parliament favors promotion of relations between the two countries. Naiser said the welcome accorded to the recent visits of the parliamentary speakers of the two countries to each other's capitals and exchange of views between the political officials of Iran and Austria are important factors contributing to expansion of mutual relations.

The Iranian ambassador said that traditional good relations shared by the two countries as well as their industrial cooperation and political contacts, warrants greater promotion of bilateral ties.

He noted that Iran is on the road to expansion and strenthening of its economic and industrial infrastructure, and above all is keen on consolidating peace and stability in the region.

Mohtashami stressed that Iran does not cast eyes on the soil of any of its neighbors, and that foreign intervention and biased anti-Iranian propaganda was acting as a hurdle in the way of regional cooperation, peace and stability.

He pointed to the good relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regional countries and said that any attempt to ignore Iran as a big and powerful country in regional equations, is not in the interest of regional and international stability.

The Iranian envoy took note of the stance of European countries and the European Union in refusing to join the American sanctions against Iran, and said that it was

(Contd on Pg. 15)

UN Envoy Lauds Iran's Role in Tajik Peace Talks

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- The United Nations envoy to the Tajik peace talks Gerd Merrem lauded the Islamic Republic's role as a peace mediator calling on Iran to continue its endeavors to establish peace and stability in Tajikistan, an IRAN report said.

He told the reporters at the 6th round of the Tajik peace talks in Ashkhabad Thursday that since the beginning of the conflict in Tajikistan, Iran has been trying its best to restore peace in the republic by bringing closer the stances of the government and the opposition.

Merrem referred to a peace accord which was inked in Tehran two years ago between the Tajik government and the leaders of the opposition forces, and termed it as among the "peaceful measures" sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He expressed satisfaction over the peace talks and called on the adversaries to end their military operations in the southern and eastern parts of the country and to pave the ground for continuation of the peace negotiation.

The sixth round of the Tajik peace talks started work in the Turkmen capital of Ashkhabad on Monday.

UNFPA OFFICIAL: Iran Successfully Implements ICPD's Program of Action

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- Representative of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in Iran, Shu-yun Zu here Thursday praised Iran as one of the "leading countries in active implementation' of the program of action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

When one reflects on the Islamic Republic of Iran's population and family planning program and especially the tremendous efforts made by the government as follow up to the ICPD, there is much to be proud of, said Shu-yun Zu quoted by a press release issued by the UN Information Center here.

Death Toll of Floods in E. Azarbaijan Rises to 16

TABRIZ, East Azarbaijan (IRNA) -- The body of a flood victim was found in Shabestar on Thursday, raising the number of casualties in this northwestern province to 16 dead and seven injured.

The flood waters in Shabestar, inflicted heavy damage to the city on Tuesday, and at least two more people suffered injuries.

The floods in the province have caused upwards of Rls.24.561 billion in damage to public places, livestock, farmlands and infrastructural facilities.

Eight poeple were killed by the floods in Marand, while four died in Ahar and Shabestar.

The disaster was triggered by torrential rains in the province last Friday afternoon and assumed alarming proportions as more rain fell on Monday evening.

According to another report from Orumyieh, W. Azarbaijan Province, flood triggered by torrential rainfall over the past few days claimed lives of four at Churas Village near the city of Khoi in this northwestern provincial city Wednesday night.

A number of livestock also perished as a result of the natural incident, which also inflicted damage on residential units.

No exact figures are yet available neither on the scale of the loss of property nor on prohable more casualties.

Iranian Ambassador Calls on Omani Minister

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- Iranian Ambassador to Oman Siyavash Zargar Ya'qoubi met with the Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousuf bin al-Alawi on Thursday.

In the meeting in Muscat the two sides exchanged views on Tehran-Muscat bilateral relations, IRNA reported.

Terming the political bilateral ties as excellent, the two officials stressed that cooperation among the regional states is the only possible way to secure peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region.

The officials of the two countries expressed satisfaction over progress made in the existing ties and called for further deepening of mutual cooperaton in different areas.

New Ambassador to Riyadh Meets President

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- The new Iranian Ambassador to Riyadh, Nouri Shahroudi, here Thursday called on President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, IRNA reported.

In the meeting, the president underlined importance of deep relations and further cooperation with Islamic states.

He recommended efforts to build further understanding and lasting friendship between the two countries.

Velayati Stresses Promotion of Iran-CIS Ties

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in Gorgan, Mazandaran Province, Thursday stated that expansion of ties with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is of great importance for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to IRNA, Velayati made the remark at the inaugural ceremony of the Foreign Ministry's Representative Office in this northern provincial city.

He said that his ministry has given top priority to consolidation of Iran's ties with the CIS, especially with those sharing common borders with it.

He added that at present the Islamic Republic of Iran has highest volume of transactions with Russia.

The minister said that inauguration of Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway was a step taken by Iran to further expand its economic and cultural ties with the CIS.

Velayati underlined that today Iran's geopolitical location, stability, security, consolidation of its Islamic system and the role it played in regional equilibrium, made many countries not to bow to the U.S. imposition of economic sanctions against Iran.

He added that at present Iran enjoys stability and security more than any other country in the region.

He hoped for expansion of ties between this northern province and the CIS in general and between the province and the Central Asian republics in particular.



IDB, Iranian Minister Explore Ways of Cooperation

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Visiting Governor of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Dr. Ahmad Mohammad-Ali and Minister of Economy and Finance Morteza Mohammadkhan in a meeting here Thursday explored ways of expanding cooperation between Iran and IDB and its member states.

Mohammadkhan briefed Mohammad-Ali on Iran's economic conditions and programs in view of its full-fledged economic and technical developments, IRNA reported.

He said that Iran was ready to contribute to implementation of the IDB member states' development projects in the areas of oil and gas, energy and export of technical and engineering services.

Mohammad-Ali, for his part, appreciated Iran for its cooperation with IDB and the member states, saying that IDB was ready to increase its contribution to the economic activities under way in Iran as well as to the export of Iran's technical and engineering knowhow to the IDB member states.

ITU Praises Iran's Progress in Telecommunications

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Secretary-General of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Pekka Tarjanne, here on Thursday said that in recent years, Iran has achieved great progress in the field of telecommunications technology and for this reason Iran can be regarded as the main center of telecommunications training for the other 51 members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Tarjanne who visited the Islamic Revolution Telecommunications Complex and other similar facilities in Tehran and Istanan told IRNA here that at present "we can say that Iran is one of the vanguards of the telecommunications technology in the world."

"In view of Iran's progress I have invited engineer Mohammad Gharazi, the Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone, to attend the first session of the heads of ITU member states which is the first symposium on telecommunications policy making, as the main speaker to transfer Iranian experiences to other countries as well as to highlight problems and achievements of an Islamic country."

He said that there is a big gap between OIC member states due to the available telecommunications technology and the expert manpower.

Pointing that Iran should transfer its information and experiences to other countries throughout the world, Tarjanne underlined that the ITU would spare no effort in assisting Iran and helping other countries to develop their telecommunications equipments with the help of the Islamic Republic.

Saudi Arabia Keen on Telecoms Cooperation With Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Deputy Saudi Arabian Minister of Telecommunications, Abdur-Rahman Abdullah al-Fahyah, here Thursday announced his country's willingness to cooperate with Islamic and regional countries particularly with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of post, telegraph and telephone.

In his talks with IRNA following a visit to the Telecommunications Complex of the Islamic Revolution (L.C.T.), Al-Fahyah praised Iran's achievements in the field of post and telecommunications and expressed hope that the L.C.T. would provide necessary facilities for Iranian Hajj pilgrims to maintain contacts with their families back home during the pilgrimage.

Al-Fahyah, who is here to take part in the Third Telecommunications Conference of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), appreciated Iranian efforts in arranging the current conference with success.

Iran Meets Over 80% of Its Telecoms Needs

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Over 80 percent of the country's telecommunications needs are met domestically, Director General of the Public Relations Department at the post, telegraph and telephone ministry Mohammad Sabouri said here Wednesday.

Sabouri, who made the remark at the Third Meeting of the Post and Telecommunications of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), said that an exhibition of Iran's technical, technological and research potentials is in progress on the sidelines of the meeting.

Among products on display at the exhibit are switching devices, remote link equipment, fibre optic terminals, and data dissemination equipment.

3rd OIC Telecoms Meet Ends

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The ministers and representatives of 52 member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) ended the 3rd telecommunications meeting here on Thursday with the issuing of a 7-point resolution.

The resolution, referring to the role of post, telegraph and telecommunications in the progress of Islamic states, emphasized the need to further expand cooperation between OIC members, IRNA reported.

It also focused on the importance of cultural issues and on strengthening of Islamic principles in society in order to safeguard the Islamic national heritage.

It stressed on solidarity and the adopting of a scientific strategy to safeguard Islamic national values.

The resolution called on member countries to accelerate the pace of national development through better use of telecommunications facilities and sharing of information and experience.

It also urged them to coordinate efforts in assisting the Palestinian people to achieve their proper rights of liberating their Zionist occupied homeland and setting up an independent state with Holy Qods as the capital.

The participants announced their opposition to any espionage activity by the Zionist regime's spying satellites which threaten regional peace and security.

Iran, Romania Review Expansion of Trade Ties

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — In a meeting here on Wednesday between Romanian Ambassador, Christian Teodorsko, and Head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, Seyed Ali Naqi Khamoushi, ways were studied for creating grounds for growth of trade relations between the two countries.

Khamoushi suggested that the two countries should have wide-scale and close cooperation in fields other than trade, IRNA reported.

He stressed on the manufacture of locomotives and said that joint cooperation in this field can contribute to the growth of this industry in the two countries.

Khamoushi referred to Iran's non-oil exports to Romania and said the two countries could cooperate in industrial exports.

The Romanian ambassador said that establishment of a joint committee could be effective in expanding bilateral trade exchanges, and that the meeting of heads of chambers of commerce of Iran and Romania can play an important part in the growth of trade relations between the two countries.

Nearly 2bn Tons of Copper Ore in Sungun Mines of Ahar

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Between 1.7 billion and two billion tons of copper ore with a purity of 0.7 percent are estimated to lie at the Sungun mines of Ahar, East Azarbaijan province.

Managing Director of the Sungun mines of Ahar, Abbas Farsinia said in Tabriz Thursday that out of the total amount, some 700 million tons of the deposits lay in wells 100 meters apart from each other, IRNA reported.

Farsinia said that Sungun mines' reserves were more than the amount at Sarcheshmeh copper mines in the southern province of Kerman.

He added that there were two traditional kilns operating at the Sungun mine with a capacity of yielding 100 tons of copper daily.

According to Farsinia $220 million worth of copper products had been produced at the mine.

The Iranian official expressed hope that operationing of a unit for copper processing at the complex in future would create 3,000 jobs.

Iranian Ambassador Confers With Pak Commerce Minister

ISLAMABAD (IRNA) — Iran's Ambassador to Islamabad, Mohammad Mehdi Akhoundzadeh, and Pakistan's Commerce Minister, Chowdari Ahmad Mokhtar, here on Monday surveyed economic and commercial relations and grounds for promotion of cooperation in different areas between Iran and Pakistan.

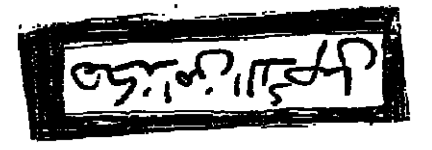
Akhoundzadeh referred to the exclusive exhibition of Iran's goods in Lahor early last month, and announced Iran's readiness for holding similar fairs in other parts of that country.

The ambassador called for Pakistani Commerce Ministry officials' cooperation and assistance in holding Iran's exclusive exhibitions and described the moves as effective for expansion of commercial relations between the two countries.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Thursday, July 11.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,392	1,400	2,389	2,401
Austria	schilling	163	164	279	281
Belgium	(100)francs	5,561	5,593	9,547	9,595
Canada	dollar	1,277	1,284	2,192	2,203
Denmark	krone	297	299	511	513
France	franc	339	341	581	584
Germany	mark	1,146	1,152	1,967	1,977
Holland	guilder	1,022	1,028	1,754	1,763
Italy	(100)liras	114	115	195	196
Japan	(100)yen	1,584	1,593	2,720	2,733
Sweden	krone	261	263	449	451
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,708	2,724	4,650	4,673
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015



هكذا من الأصل

A Poet, A Poem

This Week: Pablo Neruda

Tehran Times Service

Neftali Reyes, known around the globe as Pablo Neruda, for his ultra-revolutionary poetry, which led to his execution by the illegitimate government of General Pinochet, was born in Parral, Chile in 1904.

He won the Nobel Prize for his poetry in 1971. Neruda is famous for his extremely prolific poetry. There are many English translations of his works as well as their translations in most living languages.

NERUDA

Some of the various books of this great poet of Latin America include: *Early Poems, Splendor and Death of Joquin Murieta, The Heights of Macchu Picchu, Selected Poems of Paplo Neruda, Pablo Neruda: A New Decade, Poems 1958-1969, Twenty Poems of Neruda, New Poems 1968-1970, The Captain's Verses, Selected Poems, We Are Many, Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair, Neruda and Vallejo: Selected Poems, Extravagaria and Resistance on Earth.*

In his poem *The United Fruit Co.*, Neruda has aimed his machine-gun of rhyming words at the heart of the multi-national, America-based companies such as Coca-Cola, Ford Motors, Anaconda and above all The United Fruits Company.

Although they have occupied the best spots on the coasts of Chile and reserved them for their ill-mannered imperialistic purposes at the high cost of the lives of many young Chileans, they have also reserved the hatred of that brave nation according to Neruda.

***** ***** *****

The United Fruit Co.

Tr. by Ben Belitt

When the trumpets had sounded and all
was in readiness on the face of the earth,
Jehovah divided his universe:
Anaconda, Ford Motors,
Coca-Cola Inc., and similar entities:
the most succulent item of all,
The United Fruit Company Incorporated
reserved for itself: the heartland
and coasts of my country,
the delectable waist of America.
They rechristened their properties:
the "Banana Republics"—
and over the languishing dead,
the uneasy repose of the heroes
who harried that greatness,
their flags and their freedoms,
they established an *ope'ra bouffe:*
They ravished all enterprise,
awarded the laurels like Caesars,
unleashed all the covetous, and contrived
the tyrannical Reign of Flies—
Trujillo the fly, and Tacho the fly,
the flies called Carias, Martinez,
Ubico—all of them flies, flies
dank with the blood of their marmalade
vassalage, flies buzzing drunkenly
on the populous middens:
the fly-circus fly and the scholarly
kind, case-hardened in tyranny.
Then in the bloody domain of the flies
The United Fruits Company Incorporated
unloaded with a booty of coffee and fruits
brimming its cargo boats, gliding
like trays with the spoils
of our drowning dominions.

And all the while, somewhere, in the sugary
hells of our seaports,
smothered by gases, an Indian
fell in the morning:
a body spun off, an anonymous
chattel, some numeral tumbling,
a branch with its death running out of it
in the vat of the carrion, fruit laden and foul.

Gabo's Account of a Kidnapping, a Shaking Novel on a Real World Issue

By Leon Lazaroff

BARCELONA, Spain— As it hits bookstores, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, known among his friends and fans as "Gabo", hopes his latest novel, about a drug-related kidnapping in Colombia, will do more than entertain.

The Nobel laureate wants "*News of a Kidnapping*" - best-seller published in Spanish in May with the English version appearing in a year - to shake his fellow Colombians into confronting the corruption, kidnappings and killings that have become all too commonplace.

"I hope this book is a voice of alarm," Garcia Marquez said in an interview in his agent's Barcelona office.

Garcia Marquez set out to write about the plague of kidnapping three years ago after hearing a stirring account from a friend- journalist Maruja Pachon- who was held by the Medellin Cocaine Cartel for six months in 1991.

There was no scarcity of material - Colombia has the highest kidnapping rate in the world.

"Everyone has suffered: the kidnapped, the whole of society, the government, even the kidnappers," he said.

In doing his research, Garcia Marquez spoke to the survivors, families and perpetrators of the Pachon kidnapping and nine other abductions carried out in 1991 by drug traffickers, who used the hostages to try to pressure the Colombian government into barring extraditions to the United States.

Although Colombia's Congress in 1991 passed a constitution which forbids extraditions of Colombian citizens, kidnappings for ransom continue unabated.

"There is no crime more barbarous than a kidnapping." Garcia Marquez said. "A murder is something wretched, irreparable. But the suffering of someone who has been kidnapped makes it even harder. It is abominable."

In an ironic collision of fiction with reality, Garcia Marquez recently became involved in a high-profile kidnapping.

On April 2, a shadowy group abducted Juan Carlos Gaviria, the brother of former Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, and demanded that current President Ernesto Samper resign in exchange for the hostage's freedom.

The group, which has claimed responsibility for several murders, said it wanted Samper ousted because the Cali Drug Cartel allegedly financed his 1994 election campaign, and said Garcia Marquez should be named president.

The author rebuffed the kidnappers, telling them simply to free Gaviria. After Cuban President Fidel Castro, coincidentally a close friend of Garcia Marquez, intervened, Gaviria was freed on June 12.

For Garcia Marquez, the proposal that he become president was less a compliment than a reflection of his country's desperate need for honest leaders.

"Because of my novels and because, I suppose, I worry for my country, people think I should play a role in politics," he said. "Colombia does need better leaders, but I would be the worst president Colombia ever had."

Although Garcia Marquez has befriended several prominent politicians, he prefers to stay out of politics, saying he lacks political experience and, at 68, is too old.



Fidel (L) and Gabo (R), an intimate moment.

Instead, he has remained focused on writing, having published 12 novels, including "*Love in the Time of Cholera*," "*Chronicle of a Death Foretold*" and "*Autumn of the Patriarch*," as well as 13 screenplays.

Garcia Marquez got his first writing job at age 19 as a reporter on a newspaper in Cartagena, a city on the Caribbean not far from his hometown of Aracataca. He says the observant eye he developed as a journalist still guides his work as a novelist.

Combining literature and journalism helped Garcia Marquez shape "*News of a Kidnapping.*" But while it is based on actual events, Garcia Marquez says the book, like the rest of his novels, fuses reality with his trademark magic realism.

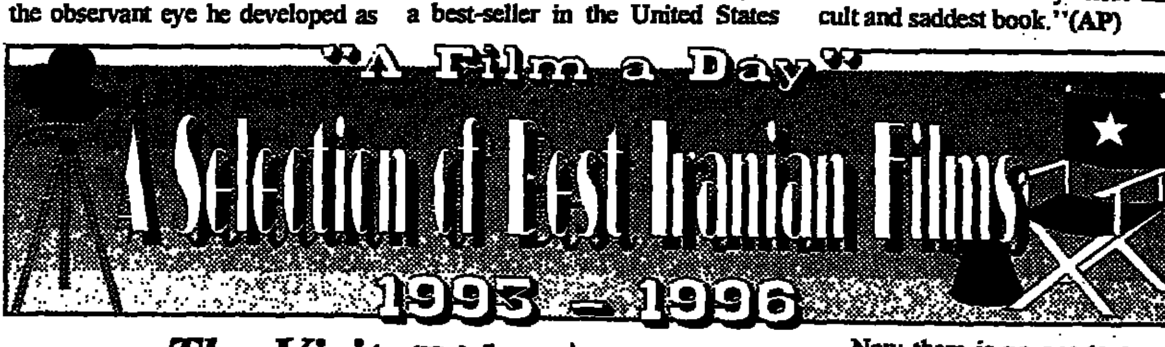
The inspiration for "*One Hundred Years of Solitude*" was life in the backward village of Aracataca.

"*Of Love and Other Demons*" - a best-seller in the United States when it was published in English last year - is a takeoff on an event Garcia Marquez witnessed as a reporter in Cartagena decades ago.

But Garcia Marquez, who won the 1982 Nobel Prize for literature, said the reality on which "*News of a Kidnapping*" is based, made writing it especially poignant.

"My interest was writing about the suffering of the kidnapped, the suffering of their families, the suffering of my country," he said.

"I have written my most difficult and saddest book."(AP)



The Visit (Didaar)

The Crew:

Director: Mohammad Reza Honarmand; **Screenplay:** Mohammad Reza Honarmand, Jamshid Malek-



HONARMAND

pour, **Producer:** Mahab Film; **Editing:** Mohammad Reza Moini; **Cinematography:** Mehrdad Fakhimi; **Sound mix:** Mohsen Rowshan; **Music:** Babak Bayat; **Make-up:** Mehri Shirazi, Asqar Hemmat; **Cast:** Mina Lakani, Mehran Modiri, Jamshid Shah Mohammadi, Kioumars Malek-Moti'ei, Sohrab Salimi.

(35 mm., Color, 90 minutes)

Director's Short Biography:

Born in 1953, Mohammad Reza Honarmand began his artistic career in 1968 with stage performance and direction. In 1981 he directed his first feature film entitled *Death of Another Person*. His subsequent pictures are *The Gravedigger* (1985), *The Telephone Calls* (1968), *Footsteps on Sand* (1989), *Dolls Thief* (1991) and *The Visit* (1995).

Synopsis:

An Armenian girl and a Muslim young man have made up their mind to get married, but the girl's family, for various reasons oppose to the idea.

The girl's family all get killed in an air raid which destroys their house in her absence.

Now there is no one to oppose to their marriage but the young man feels responsible to go to the war fronts and take revenge for the lives of the innocent people killed in bombardment of the cities.

The girl who waits impatiently for his return soon hears the news of his being taken captive by the enemy...

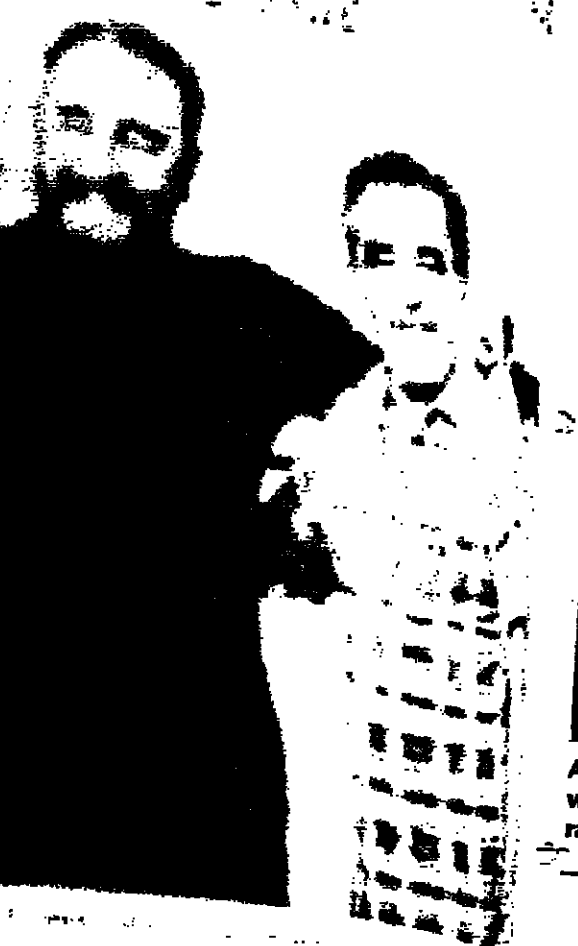
Courtesy: Farabi Cinema Foundation Publications.





Huge Secur
Protects





TEHRAN TIMES

JULY 13, 1996



ATLANTA, GA, United States (July 10): Two workers hang banners outside the Georgia Dome which will be one the primary venues for indoor competition during the 1996 Olympic Games. Final preparations continue for the games scheduled to begin July 19.
(AFP PHOTO)

Huge Security Operation Protects Games

ATLANTA (Reuter) — The Atlanta Olympics has received threats but none serious and security chiefs said on Thursday they were confident terrorists would not strike.

Tens of thousands of security personnel, including 2,000 police officers from around the world, will be patrolling the games, ever mindful of the 1972 munich massacre of 11 Israelis by Palestinian extremists.

"We have no indication of any terrorist threat against the games at this point," said FBI spokesman Woody Johnson.

Intelligence is a high priority but he refused to be drawn on whether international or home-based extremists were a bigger threat.

The attack on U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia as well as the Oklahoma City and New York World Trade Centre bombs have put security chiefs on full alert on both fronts.

"We are actively pursuing any information within the rules of law that might indicate a threat to the games," Johnson added.

About 10,000 athletes from 197 countries will be easily outnumbered by those guarding them in an operation organisers said was costing 'hundreds of millions of dollars'.

Nothing is being left to chance. When two men were found allegedly making pipe bombs in rural Georgia 90 miles (150 km) from Atlanta, an Olympic connection was assumed and investigated until it could be ruled out.

An Olympics security officer was shot in the chest by a stray bullet and two guards narrowly escaped injury when a stolen car ploughed through a security check-point last week.

But organisers keep insisting that Atlanta, which has one of the highest crime rates in the United States, will be the safest place on earth for the centenary games from July 19 to August 4.

Security personnel will be highly visible and intentionally so but Olympics security chief Bill Rathburn pledged it would not be 'stifling, overwhelming or offensive'.

Bowe-Golota Fight Ends in Mayhem

NEW YORK (AP) — A heavyweight boxing match ended in a wild, chair-swinging riot at Madison Square Garden, forcing officials to evacuate the building.

Riddick Bowe, taking a beating from underdog Andrew Golota, won on a seventh-round disqualification after being knocked down for the second time by a low blow Thursday night.

When Bowe went down from the low punch, one of Bowe's handlers charged into the ring and attacked Golota, who suffered a gash on the back of his head.

The name of the handler wasn't immediately known, but a mob quickly followed him as the crowd of 11,252 roared. Some began tossing debris toward the ring and others started fighting one another. A young man in a wheelchair was knocked over.

Garden physician Dr. Andrew Bazos said 12 minor injuries were reported.



Cycling

VALENCE, France — Chepe Gonzalez of Colombia surprised even himself by escaping in the last kilometre to win the 11th stage of the Tour de France on Thursday.

Few would have bet on Gonzalez, who had begun the day 117th overall more than one hour behind leader Bjarne Riis, to take the day's undulating 202-km ride from Gap.

Golf

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland — Ian Woosnam clung to a share of the halfway lead in the Scottish Open on Thursday as Colin Montgomerie fell off the pace with a 77.

Woosnam, who shared the first round lead with Montgomerie after two-under-par 70s, was happier after his second round 74 than he was with a round four shots better.

The former U.S. masters champion shared the lead on 144 with fellow Briton Russell Claydon and American Jay Townsend, both of whom have carded two rounds of 72.

Athletics

LONDON — World high hurdles champion Allen Johnson wants Colin Jackson to find his old form at the Olympics, even though he knows it could cost him the gold medal.

The 25-year-old American succeeded the injured Jackson as world champion last year and has won their three meetings so far this summer.

Pakistan Thrash Minor Counties

STONE, England (Reuter) — A century off just 85 balls by opener Aamir Sohail helped Pakistan crush the Minor Counties by 170 runs on Thursday.

The left-hander smashed 133 as the touring team — fielding a side not far short of test strength — raced to 310 for seven off their 50 overs.

Inzamam-ul-Haq hit 41 from 29 balls before retiring to the dressing room complaining of dizziness.

The minor counties struggled to 140 for eight in reply after a middle-order collapse which saw them lose five wickets for 12 runs.

An unbroken ninth-wicket partnership of 64 between Marcus Sharp and Laurie Potter salvaged some respect for the home side.

Pakistan face warwickshire and kent in three-day matches before the first test against England at Lord's starting on July 25.

Maradona to Be Welcomed in China

BEIJING (Reuter) — Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona may face a snubbing by Japan but millions of Chinese soccer fans are waiting for his first visit later this month.

Maradona and his Boca Juniors team were contracted to play two games in China, on July 25 against the Guo An team in Beijing and on July 27 against the Sichuan Quanxing team in the southwest city of Chengdu, an official of the company sponsoring the tour said on Thursday.

The China Tianping Economic Culture Development Co was underwriting the entire cost of the tour and would sell advertising rights, so the two Chinese teams did not have to pay anything, he added.

Porto Names Oliveira as New Coach

LISBON (Reuter) — Portuguese champions Porto appointed national squad coach Antonio Oliveira on Thursday to replace England's Bobby Robson as club manager.

Porto chairman Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa told journalists that Oliveira would sign a two-year contract on Saturday.

Oliveira coached the national squad at the European Championships in England in June where they delighted spectators with their skills, but were beaten by eventual finalists the Czech Republic, in the quarter-finals.

He had long been seen as first choice to replace Robson who left for Barcelona in May after leading Porto to two successive championships.

It was not immediately known who would succeed Oliveira in charge of the national side.

Before taking over the national squad in 1994, the 43-year-old Oliveira had trained six Portuguese sides, including Lisbon's sporting, but without winning any trophies.

Pinto da Costa also announced that the club had signed Uruguayan international defender Alejandro Diaz for four seasons.

Karpov Retains FIDE World Title

ELISTA, Russia (Reuter) — Russian grandmaster Anatoly Karpov retained his World Chess Federation (FIDE) title on Thursday when he drew with U.S. challenger Gata Kamsky in a sleepy Russian town near the shores of the Caspian Sea.

The draw, after 80 moves in the 18th game, brought the score to 10.5 to 7.5, giving Karpov, 45, an unassailable lead over his 22-year-old rival in the 20 game series.

Karpov, who had won his fide title in 1993, praised Kamsky, a Russian-born chess prodigy who defected to the United States with his father Rustam in 1989.

Karpov may only hold his title for a few months as plans are afoot for a new-style World Championship Tournament at the end of 1996 to restore the battered authority of FIDE over the world's top chess title.

World number one Gary Kasparov, who broke away in 1993 to found his own Professional Chess Association (PCA), did not take part in the FIDE competition.

Finns Promote Fair Play With Green Card

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — In addition to red and yellow cards for bad behavior, soccer referees this week are flashing 3,400 green cards to promote fair play in one of the world's largest youth soccer tournaments.

"The idea is encouragement instead of punishment," Pertti Alaja, initiator of the green card, said Thursday. "We want players, trainers, referees and parents to stress a positive attitude."

Soccer referees everywhere have red and yellow cards that they show to indicate unsportsmanlike conduct. A red card means expulsion from the game. Two yellows add up to one red.

Now in the first round of the Helsinki Cup, referees are giving a green card to one player from each team.

This year, the tournament has 15,000 girls and boys, aged 8 to 19, from 27 countries. The green card has been used in all Finnish soccer games for players under 12 since January. This year's Helsinki Cup is the first time referees are using it in an international tournament.

Sri Lanka Face Tough World Cup Draw

LONDON (Reuter) — Champions Sri Lanka on Thursday were drawn in a tough group including India, South Africa and England for the 1999 World Cup in England.

Only the top three teams in each group will advance to the next stage.

Zimbabwe and an associate member of the International Cricket Council (ICC) were also drawn in Group A at the ceremony at Lord's.

Group B contains 1996 World Cup runners-up Australia, West Indies, Pakistan, New Zealand and two ICC associate members.

Unlike the last World Cup when four teams from each group advanced to the secondary stage, organisers have changed the rules so only the top three progress pass the opening stage in England.

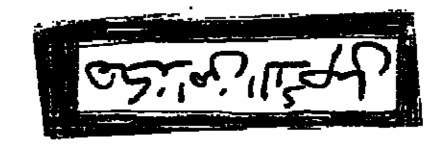
Each of the teams in Groups A and B will play five round-robin matches, producing a total of 15 matches in each section.

The top three teams in Group A will play the top three teams in Group B in the next stage to determine the final league positions.

The top four teams then qualif for the semifinals, with first play ing fourth and second against thir. for a total of 42 games, includin the final.

England, who host the World Cup for the fourth time, were seeded eighth — only Zimbabw of the test-playing nations wer ranked below them.


NICE, France (July 10): British sprinter and Olympic champion Lindford Christie (L) and Canadian world champion Donovan Bailey (2nd R) dive for the finish of the 100 metres, during the Nikaia athletics meeting at Nice. Bailey just edged out Christie in a photo-finish, both with a time of 10.17 secs.
(AFP PHOTO)



Saddam Reportedly Foils Another Coup Attempt

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein has reportedly foiled a fresh attempt by disgruntled military officers to remove him from power, the latest in several bids since the end of the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

Iraqi dissidents and Arab sources said Friday at least 50 officers, including two commanders, were arrested last month on suspicion that they were preparing for a military coup to topple Saddam.

The dissidents, reached by telephone in neighboring Jordan, said all the suspects are Sunni Muslims and some of them are trusted officers from Saddam's hometown of Tikrit.

A coup attempt also was reported by the respected Arabic daily *Al-Hayat*. However, it was impossible to independently confirm the seriousness of the planned overthrow or the number of arrests.

The accounts of the coup attempt appear to provide further evidence of unrest in the Iraqi Army, especially among Sunni officers who form the backbone of the army's command and the security forces.

According to the dissidents, the conspirators were seeking support from senior army commanders. Among the officers reportedly arrested were brig. Suhail al-Adami, an army division commander, and Col. Adnan Ali al-Ta'i, a brigade commander in southern Iraq.

Arab sources quoted Friday by *Al-Hayat* Gen. Hamid Shiban, a Tikriti and commander of the air force during the iraq imposed war, also was arrested but was later freed.

Muslims Win Elections for Mostar City Council

MOSTAR, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP) — A mainly Muslim coalition calling for the reunification of this divided city has won recent municipal elections with its rival Croat nationalist party coming a narrow second.

According to figures published Friday for the June 30 poll, Bosnia's first post-war vote, the Muslim coalition won 21 of the 37 available seats on the city council.

The remainder of the seats, 16 in all, were taken by the main Bosnian Croat Party, the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ). None of the other political groupings which contested the elections won any seats on the council, which will appoint a mayor in a few weeks' time.

The results were released belatedly by Mostar's EU administrators after complaints by Croats stalled the release of the figures. The EU however, went ahead with publication after the European Union ombudsman ruled the complaints had not affected the vote.

During the campaigns, the mainly-Muslim coalition which is dominated by Bosnia's ruling SDA Party, called for the reunification of the city. Before Croat militia launched an attack on Muslim-majority eastern districts of Mostar in 1993, the city was a patchwork of different ethnic groups. Muslims accounted for 34 percent of the population. Croats 33 percent and Serbs 19 percent.

Iran Exports $1m Worth of Petrochemicals Daily

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran exported more than one million dollar worth of petrochemical products a day during the past three and a half months (March 20-July 6), said a National Iranian Petrochemical Industries Company official, as quoted by IRNA.

In an interview with the Farsi-language daily *Iran* on Tuesday, director for planning of the company Mansour Moazami said the value of the exports exceeded $116 million over the said period.

The exports weighing 736,000 tons comprised polyvinyl chloride (P.V.C.), magnetocardiograph (M.C.G), liquified petroleum gas (L.P.G.), sulphur and benzene.

He added that over the period 618,000 tons of petrochemical products, worth Rls.460,000 million, were sold inside the country. This shows an increase of 27 percent compared to the same period last year.

He said that 2,890,000 tons of petrochemical products were produced in the country over the period, six percent higher than the projected output. The amount also shows an increase of 18 percent compared to the same period last year.

The rise is the result of the increase in the number of petrochemical units operating in the country, Moazami concluded.

Kurds Kill Five Troops

ANKARA (AFP) — Separatist Kurdish guerrillas have killed five government troops in a raid on a border post, the Anatolia news agency reported Friday.

It said guerrillas from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) attacked the Gulluk border post in the southeastern Province of Van Thursday after illegally entering Turkey.

In another clash in a mountainous area in Van Province, security forces killed four PKK militants, Anatolia said.

In the southeastern province of Kahramanmaras, PKK members kidnapped and shot dead four civilians, the agency said.

More than 22,000 people have been killed in violence in the region since 1984 when the PKK launched its armed campaign for a homeland.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ISRAEL...

The Palestinian minister for *Waqf* (Islamic property), Sheikh Hassan Tahboub, has the office on Temple Mount, one of Islam's holiest sites.

Haaretz said Netanyahu would tread carefully in the matter due to the sensitivity surrounding religious institutions at the site.

Since 1994 the PLO has discreetly taken control of Muslim holy sites in East Bait-ul-Moqaddas, which were previously administered by Jordan.

Netanyahu has stepped up Israel's campaign to wipe out Palestinian activity in the city, threatening to close the PLO's unofficial headquarters there, Orient House.

Police were also ordered to issue summons against four Palestinian deputies Monday to "warn" them about political activity in Bait-ul-Moqaddas. The four refused to attend.

The Palestinian Authority insists it is not violating the Oslo accords and points to an official letter written by the then Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in 1994 pledging that Israel would not move against existing Palestinian institutions in East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CHECHEN....

ter four days of heavy air and artillery bombardments on villages, Russian military said.

The military command was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying that the guerrillas attacked from three directions but were beaten back with 60 dead. Russian casualty tolls after battles are often inaccurate.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

HAMAS...

stance on the Arab-Israeli peace process during his visit to Washington this week.

The rightwing Israeli leader refused to set a date for a troop pullback from Al-Khalil or for lifting the crippling four-month-old closure of the Palestinian territories.

He also declared Israel would never share Bait-ul-Moqaddas as its capital and pledged to press ahead with building Jewish settlements on the territories.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday brushed aside Arab anger at his hardline policies, despite warnings that he risks a collapse of the peace process and a violent backlash from Islamic activists.

Nentanyahu provoked a storm of Arab protest when he refused to budge on his opposition to handing back occupied land or sharing Bait-ul-Moqaddas during his visit to the United States this week.

"We are not impressed by the threats made in recent days in the Arab world and we are not excited by them," he told the *Yediot Aharonot* newspaper from Washington.

He said they were based on a "miscalculated reaction which stems from the difficulty the Arab states and the Palestinians have adapting to the new situation in Israel."

But Palestinian officials warned that Netanyahu was making a big mistake in underestimating the anger sweeping the Arab world.

Hanan Ashrawi, a minister and former spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel, said: "His arrogance is breathtaking and very destructive."

"He is provoking an Arab reaction which isn't going to be very pleasant, and risks single-handedly destroying the peace process. Nobody can dictate to the world like he is trying to do," Ashrawi told AFP.

Netanyahu will have to face the music when he travels to Egypt and Jordan next week for his first visits to Arab states since his May 29 election.

Netanyahu won the support Thursday of U.S. presidential challenger Bob Dole, who applauded the rightwing leader's stand on Israeli control over Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

"It was a very good visit," Dole said following the 30-minute meeting with Netanyahu, embarking on the second leg of his week-long visit to the United States.

"I told Mr. Netanyahu that a Dole administration would continue the strong support of Israel," he added.

The presumptive Republican nominee said he supported Netanyahu's refusal to consider relinquishing control over East Bait-ul-Moqaddas in line with demands by Palestinians who want to establish their future capital there.

Dole, the former leader of the Senate, endorsed a bill adopted by Congress in November that called on the U.S. government to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Bait-ul-Moqaddas by the end of May 1999.

In his remarks to the press, Dole declined to comment on the future of the Middle East peace process and said he had to return to the campaign trail.

Following his meeting with Dole, Netanyahu went to Wall Street to try to reassure U.S. investors concerned about the future of the Middle East peace process that they can still make money in Israel.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

PRESIDENT...

of Washington stem from the Islamic countries' economic dependence on global arrogance.

He also said that appropriate road to attain power and independence passes through construction and that Iran has left a major part of this path behind.

Addressing the PTT ministers and representatives of some 52 member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the president stated that if countries want to attain their legitimate rights and not to bow to enemies, they should follow the path of construction.

He stressed that Iran, enjoying a revolutionary spirit and very hard working specialist and professional forces, is truely invincible.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRAQ...

The Turkish delegation, which left Friday, held talks on future cooperation with Iraq after Baghdad works out details with the United Nations on resuming oil exports in return for food and medicine.

Under the oil-for-food deal signed on May 20 in New York, Iraq can export two billion dollars of oil every six months in order to buy food and medicine under strict UN control.

But the two sides still have to agree on how to implement the deal.

Several Arab and foreign delegations have visited Baghdad since the deal was signed.

Trade between Ankara and Baghdad amounted to two billion dollars a year before the Persian Gulf crisis in 1990-1991.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

EU...

Clinton in an election year.

The Helms-Burton legislation enjoys bipartisan support in Congress, where it was rushed through following Cuba's shooting down of two U.S. light aircraft in February.

The EU is already under intense pressure to retaliate against those provisions of the U.S. legislation which have already been implemented.

Nine executives of the Canadian mining group Sherritt International have been warned they and their families will be barred from the U.S. unless the company disinvests from Cuba. Retaliatory entry restrictions on U.S. businessmen will be discussed by the EU foreign ministers next week.

Other options include the freezing of U.S. companies' assets and "claw back" suits in European courts to reclaim damages awarded in the U.S..

In his letter to Clinton, Santer underlined that the EU shared the U.S. desire to promote democracy in Cuba. But he reiterated the deep concern in Europe at the extraterritorial aspects of Helms-Burton, warning that "such action taken against partners and allies does nothing to further these objectives in Cuba."

France has asked U.S. President Bill Clinton to suspend application of the Helms-Burton law which threatens retaliation against companies trading with Cuba, the Foreign Ministry here said Friday.

Paris envisaged taking "appropriate" measures, alone or with its European partners, if the act were applied, spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt said.

"The president of the United States still has the possibility of suspending the application of some aspects of this law. That would amount to a gesture to calm matters," he added.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

TURKEY...

However, some independent analysts estimate the migrating population at a much higher number.

Most of the villages had been forcefully evacuated by security forces trying to cut potential logistic support from the region's people to the outlawed Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK).

Inhabitants fled the other villages in fear of the fighting between security forces and the PKK.

More than 22,000 people have been killed in violence in the region since 1984 when the PKK launched its armed campaign for a homeland.

A majority of the people fleeing the evacuated villages emigrated to the regional center of Diyarbakir and Turkey's metropolitan cities of Adana, Istanbul and Izmir.

According to the press reports, Erbakan told his aides that the country's influential military, which is leading the fight against the PKK, was in agreement with him to reopen the evacuated villages.

In an effort to normalize life in the southeast, Turkey's most underdeveloped area, Erbakan has also pledged to boost the economy by extending state support and encouraging investment.

He has also promised to gradually lift a state of emergency which grants the security forces extraordinary powers.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

SOME...

Bacon said plans for the transfer were not complete so he could not say how many troops would be shifted. There are about 5,000 U.S. servicemen in Saudi Arabia, mostly members of the U.S. Air Force.

The June 25-blast killed 19 airmen at a housing complex in Dhahran. A bomb last November in Riyadh killed five Americans.

There have been reports that many of the troops would be moved from urban areas in Saudi Arabia to more remote bases.

Bacon said U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia and the Mideast remained on a high state of alert against another attack.

The State Department said on Wednesday that the U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia had received reports suggesting there could be further attacks on Americans.

Asked if U.S. officials expected another attack, Bacon said there were strong concerns about one. He said the Defense Department was aware of the same reports as the State Department.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

HAGUE...

former Yugoslavia issued the warrants for Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his army commander General Ratko Mladic on charges of genocide and war crimes.

The warrants mean the two Bosnian Serb leaders can be arrested anywhere, effectively forcing them to stay inside Serb-controlled territory which the tribunal described as "an open air prison."

The international community's civilian negotiator for Bosnia, Carl Bildt, called for prompt action to apprehend them.

"We welcome the issuance of these warrants and we support the tribunal. We hope that the warrants are now translated promptly into actions," Bildt told Reuters.

Germany's Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said the warrants were overdue, adding: "Karadzic and Mladic must know: No one accused of war crimes will escape justice.

"The international arrest warrants issued today show that the community of nations is not ready to cast a cloak of forgetting over the return of genocide to Europe."

But the authority in the best position to execute the warrants was also patently reluctant to do so.

The NATO-led peacekeeping force (IFOR) in Bosnia has consistently said it will not aggressively pursue either Karadzic or Mladic, but will apprehend them if it happens to encounter them in the course of its duties.

IFOR commanders leading heavily-armed 60,000 troops are reluctant to risk casualties in trying to snatch the strongly guarded Bosnian Serb leaders from territory where they are highly popular.

NATO spokesman Colonel Max Mariner said IFOR welcomed the tribunal's decision "as any law-abiding organization would," adding: "That's another screw turned and we see it as positive. The long walk to The Hague just got a little shorter and a little quicker."

The warrants were likely to tighten pressure on IFOR to change its policy. Bosnian Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic described the international community's attempts to remove Karadzic and Mladic from positions of power as "a circus".



WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 34°C
Min. temp. 21°C

Clear to partly cloudy with scattered showers and wind

Warmest Points:
Abadan, Mahshahr 48°C

Coldest Point:
Ardebil 10°C

Some cities of the worls

Cities	Max °C	Cities	Max °C
Jedda	36	Vienna	–
Riyadh	45	Moscow	33
Istanbul	–	Madrid	30
Rome	25	Abu Dhabi	41
Athens	30	Karachi	32
London	23	New Delhi	36
Paris	22	Kuwait	48
Frankfurt	–		

Cooperation Among Iran, Russia and Regional States Discussed

MOSCOW (IRNA) – Iran's Ambassador to Russia, Mehdi Safari, conferred with Russian Minister for Relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States, Valery Serov, here on Wednesday, on trilateral cooperation among Iran, Russia and each of the regional states.

The Iranian diplomat proposed establishment of cooperation among Iran, Russia and Armenia and among Iran, Russia and Turkmenistan.

The Russian minister welcomed the proposal calling for Iran's practical recommendations in this respect.

The two sides also discussed bilateral relations and issues related to purchase of equipment for the oil industry and railway.

The Russian official announced his country's readiness to supply Iran with oil productc via the Caspian Sea and export of an equivalent of the products from the Persian Gulf.

Narcotics Seized in Abadan, Khorramshahr

ABADAN, Khuzestan Province (IRNA) -- Some 503 kg of illicit drugs have been confiscated by the provincial Law Enforcement Forces in Abadan and Khorramshahr, southwestern Iran, during the past three months, said head of the Abadan's Islamic Revolutionay Court on Wednesday.

According to the judge, Kazem Jabbari, the drugs were found in two different vehicles and 11 smugglers were arrested in this connection.

13th Annual Conference on Physics to Be Held in Mashhad

MASHHAD, Khorasan Province (IRNA) – About a thousand physicists from Iran, Britain and Australia are to take part in the 13th Annual Conference on Physics in this northeastern city of Iran in September.

According to Jamshid Ghanbari, dean of Faculty of Physics at the University of Ferdowsi in Mashhad, during the three-day conference lectures would be delivered on various branches of the science including astro-physics, nuclear physics, foundamental molecules, medical physics, laser, mathematics and physics.

Of the 124 articles received so far, 80 will be presented at the conference, he noted.

Various workshops would also be set up on the sideline of the conference, he said.

Berlusconi, Craxi to Face New Corruption Trial

MILAN, Italy (AFP) – Former Italian premiers Silvio Berlusconi and Bettino Craxi were ordered Friday to face a new corruption trial in connection with the illegal transfer of funds from Berlusconi's Fininvest Group to Craxi's Socialist Party, judicial sources announced.

The trial in the so-called all Iberian case will open on November 21 in Milan, the sources said.

Appearing alongside the one-time premiers will be Ubaldo Livolsi, a senior executive with the media set subsidiary of Berlusconi's Fininvest Group, and nine other co-accused.

Jannati Stresses on Appropriate Use of National Wealth, Islamization of Universities



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- Substitute Friday Prayer Leader, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, underlined the appropriate use of national wealth and resources as one of the first priorities in running the affairs of the country.

Addressing a group of Friday Prayer worshippers at Tehran University campus, here yesterday, the ayatollah called on the executive officials to prevent extravagance.

Ayatollah Jannati said that appropriate and optimal use of national wealth will help solve parts of the country's problems and speed up reconstruction process in the country.

Relying on the Almighty God and holding fast to the Islamic teachings, the Muslim nation of Iran has withstood the plots of the arrogant powers, he added.

Holding fast to the sublime Islamic teachings and the guidelines of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, the late Imam Khomeini, and those of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Muslim nation of Iran will go ahead with materializing the ideals of Islam and the holy Qoran.

Underlining the need for Islamization of the universities and higher education centers, Ayatollah Jannati asked the Judiciary to firmly punish the moral and social offenders.

EU Court Rejects British Appeal Against Beef Ban

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) -- Britain's campaign against the worldwide ban on its beef exports suffered a major setback on Friday when the European Court of Justice on Friday rejected its application for it to be suspended on an interim basis.

The ban was imposed by the European Commission on March 27 following the British government's revelation of a possible link between bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or "mad cow" disease, and a fatal human brain condition.

Britain had been confident the ban would be suspended at least for exports to countries outside the European Union pending a definitive ruling on the legality of the broader ban, which is expected to take nearly two years.

London had argued that the embargo was not justified by scientific evidence and that the commission had overstepped its powers by imposing the ban on exports to third countries.

But in its interim ruling, the court said that given the scientific uncertainty about whether the disease could be transmitted to humans, and the lack of controls on the origin and movement of animals, the commission's decision was "essential to the achievement of the protection of public health."

The commission had also presented serious arguments as to the legal basis for the ban to be applied both inside and outside the EU, the court said.

Britain played down the significance of the ruling. "This is only an interim ruling. Obviously we will continue to argue strenuously our main court action," said a Foreign Office spokeswoman in London.

The introduction of the ban on British beef plunged the EU into one of the most serious crises in its history.

Beef consumption and prices slumped across the 15-nation bloc, forcing the commission to intervene heavily in the market and introduce emergency aid to farmers at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars.

By the end of this year the total bill to the EU budget is expected to exceed two billion dollars. The commission is currently examining emergency measures to cut beef production in an attempt to prevent the crisis undermining the market for years to come.

Heavy Fighting Resumes in Liberian Countryside

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) – Fierce fighting this week in eastern Liberia has driven thousands from their homes, while disease is ravaging the ranks of refugees from earlier fighting.

The latest territorial battle is between Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia and George Boley's Liberia Peace Council in the provincial town of Zwedru, 180 miles (290 kilometers) southeast of the capital, Monrovia, military sources said Thursday.

The four-day battle intensified Wednesday when Boley's fighters moved in from the port city of Greenville, 130 miles (200 kilometers) southeast of Monrovia, and launched a fierce assault on Taylor's positions in Zwedru.

Earlier this week, an estimated 3,000 Liberians fleeing fighting in surrounding Grand Bedeh County crossed into the Ivory Coast border town of Tabou, which is already crammed with tens of thousands of refugees from the 6 1/2-year civil war.

Monrovia itself remains calm following nearly two months of fighting in April and May that wrecked much of the city.

20 Villagers Massacred by Landlords' Militia in India

PATNA, India (AFP) – At least 20 villagers, mostly women and children, were shot and hacked to death by members of an outlawed militia run by upper-caste landowners in the Indian state of Bihar, officials said Friday.

Iran Developing Health Towns on WHO Model

YAZD (IRNA) – With a population of 23,000, Azadshahr, with an area of about 75 square kilometers near this central city of Iran, is gradually developing into a provincial health town.

The town, with a fabric somewhat different from other towns and cities in Iran is planned with the idea of offering health, social and cultural services to all citizens until the year 2,000. The idea was first proposed by World Health Organization (WHO) in 1984, and the first measures for the purpose were taken by Iran with a symposium in Shahr-e Rei (historical Rei), south of Tehran, on the same topic in 1991.

The headquarters for Azadshahr Health Town started its operation on March 10 this year with 17 representatives in it from various provincial government departments. It has six committees for public education, urban and health services, employment, planning, volunteer enterprises, and water and sewage services.

Built on principles recommended by WHO, the town is designed primarily for ensuring a physically and culturally health life for its inhabitants in a near future.

A directive by the Iranian Ministry of Health says one town in every province this year must develop the health standards of the 'Health Town'.

Qatar for Expansion of Ties With Iran

ABU DHABI, UAE (IRNA) -- Iran's Ambassador to Qatar Seyed Baqer Sakhaei conferred with Qatari Foreign Ministry Advisor Ahmad al-Mahmoud in Doha Wednesday. The two sides exchanged views on mutual relations and regional issues.

The Qatari Foreign Ministry official called the Islamic Republic of Iran an important country in the region and stressed good relations between the two countries.

Earlier on Wednesday Sakhaei also met with the Qatari Head of Civil Service Organization, Sheikh Faleh bin Jasem ath-Thani, and discussed the formation of a joint labor committee of the two countries.

China to Host World Libraries Conference in August

BEIJING (IRNA) -- The Chinese capital is to host the 26th conference of the World Union of Library Associations here August 25-31.

The conference, one of the largest of its kind, will be attended 3,000 representatives form the world countries.

The Associations of World Libraries was incorporated in London in 1927 and has now 1,460 members from 139 world countries.

With a long history of public library services, China is one of the most ancient countries in the development of public libraries.

Floods Claim 15 Lives, Inflict Rls.24bn in Damage

TABRIZ, East Azarbaijan Province (IRNA) -- Flood triggered by torrential rainfalls over the past couple of days have killed at least 15 people and inflicted over Rls.24.561 billion in damage on public facilities and farmlands.

Natural Disasters Headquarters in this northwestern province announced here Wednesday that the floods have destroyed 321 residential units, inflicting Rls.3.355 billion in damage.

Some 3,228 hectares of farmlands sustained a loss of Rls.14.291 billion and 1,788 heads of livestocks worth Rls.555 perished.

Urban infrastructures and installations and roads suffered a loss of Rls.6.36 billion in the floods.

Iranian Envoy Comments on Tajik Peace Talks

ASHKHABAD (IRNA) – On the third day of the extraordinary session of the Tajik peace talks on Wednesday, the foreign minister of Tajikistan and head of the Union of Opposition Groups presented their suggestions for settlement of basic and political issues.

The two sides proposed extension of the cease-fire, exchange of POWs, public amnesty, and legalizing the activities of political parties, groups and the press with special terms.

The government side calls for establishment of a conciliation commission within the framework of existing laws, while the union insists on setting up of a national reconciliation council which controls the government along with the president.

Iran's representative at the talks, Mojtahed Shabestari, told IRNA on Wednesday evening that the proposals of the two sides were examined in a session attended by international observers and the UN special envoy.

Shabestari, who is Iran's Ambassador to Tajikistan, has also held talks with the UN special envoy, the Pakistani representative to the talks.

(Contd from Pg. 2)

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clear evidence of the fact that the American measures run counter to the principles and standards of international relations.

Mohatashami said Iran enjoys extensive relations with all European states.

He added that given its good record of constructive cooperation with the Islamic Republic, Austria, as a European Union member, can play an effective role in expansion of relations between Iran and Europe.



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international news

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F-16 Crashes in Florida Home

WASHINGTON (AFP) — An air force F-16 fighter plane crashed and exploded into flames in Pensacola, Florida, destroying a house and killing a four year old child inside, authorities said.

The child's mother was pulled from the house shortly after the accident and transferred to a burn center in Mobile, Alabama, to be treated for burns on 30 percent of her body, Pensacola police said.

The body of four-year-old Sean Cannon was found nearly four hours later by rescue crews sifting through the rubble. An adjacent house was also damaged in the crash.

German Girl Found Dead With Body Mutilated

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The mutilated corpse of a German teenager who went missing from the popular Belgian seaside resort of De Haan six days ago was found in a nearby forest on Thursday, police said.

Carola Titze, 16, from Vechta, near Bremen, had been holidaying in De Haan with her parents. She was last seen on Friday after telling them she was going for a walk.

Her disappearance sparked immediate concern for her safety and a nationwide search. On August 22 last year two young Belgian women went missing from the same area.

Charles and Diana Agree to Divorce

LONDON (AFP) — Prince Charles and Princess Diana have agreed to the terms of their divorce, their lawyers said on Friday.

Diana will lose the title of her royal highness (HRH) and will be called Diana, Princess of Wales, Buckingham Palace said.

Lawyers Farrer Co and Mishcon de Reya said in a statement: "Their royal highnesses, the prince and princess of Wales, have concluded settlement terms for their divorce.

"The negotiations, which were amicable, were greatly assisted by both the fairness of his royal highness the Prince of Wales' proposals and by her royal highness the Princess of Wales' ready acceptance of them.

"Their royal highnesses will continue to share equal responsibility in the upbringing of their children.

"While the financial terms of the settlement remain confidential to the parties, they recognize that the nature of her royal highness the Princess of Wales' future role is of legitimate public interest and, an agreed statement on that role is being released by Buckingham Palace.

"It is anticipated that the decree nisi will be pronounced on July 15 and the decree absolute on August 28."

An announcement by Diana's lawyers said the couple will start divorce peoceedings on Monday.

Technically, after the dicorce, Diana will no longer be a member of the royal family. But she will be "regarded" as such by Queen Elizabeth and her ex-husband, the lawyers' statement said.

Under English law, the couple can divorce on the grounds of a two-year separation.

Second Bus Bomb Explodes in Moscow

MOSCOW (AFP) — A blast on a Moscow trolley-bus, the second in two days, injured up to 27 people and reportedly killed one on Friday, in what officials described as an act of terrorism.

The rush-hour explosion at a trolley-bus stop in northern Moscow "was without any doubt an act of terrorism," ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Deputy Interior Minister Pyotr Latishev as saying.

Moscow police were earlier quoted by Interfax news agency as saying that one person died, but a police spokesman could not immediately confirm the report.

A Federal Security Service (FSB) investigator at the scene told reporters that 17 people had been injured, three seriously.

Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzkhkov said that 20 people had been hurt, 10 of them hospitalized, three with serious injuries. A Moscow health service official quoted by ITAR-TASS said that 27 people were injured.

No one had claimed responsibility for the bomb, which Luzhkov said was the equivalent of 300 grams of TNT, or for the blast on Thursday which injured five, one seriously, on a trolley bus in central Moscow.

Protestants Begin Traditional March in Belfast



BELFAST, United Kingdom (July 10): Police officers escort a van carrying the possessions of a Catholic family who were among several forced from their homes in the Antrim Road area of Belfast. The van passes a burning barricade manned by Loyalists. Church leaders have appealed for calm, as several Roman Catholic families have asked to be relocated following unrest in the Northern Ireland capital.

(AFP PHOTO)

BELFAST (AFP) -- Several hundred Protestants began their traditional Orange Order parade here Friday following a night of serious violence in which three policemen were shot and street rioters torched cars.

People marched quietly to the sound of fife and drum wearing orange sashes in memory of the 300-year-old Protestant victory of William of Orange over the Roman Catholic James Stuart at the battle of the Boyne.

The crowd crossed the bridge over the Lagen River, leading to the heavily guarded Catholic lower Ormeau Road.

Police lined the streets, shielded by numerous armored Land Rovers parked along the curbs.

Catholics, separated from the Protestants by the police force, watched from nearby streets, chanting "Get Out of Here" and other hostile slogans.

A banner reading "No Consent, No Parade" hung from one house along the route while another read "Orange KKK," a reference to the white supremacist Klux Klux Klan Movement in the United States.

More than 200 journalists were covering the march, which marks the climax of the Protestant marching season in Northern Ireland.

Residents Flee as Bertha Swirls Toward Carolinas

MOREHEAD CITY, North Carolina (AFP) -- Hurricane Bertha moved closer to the Carolinas early Friday, sending at least 150,000 people streaming away from this southeast U.S. state's coast, officials said.

"We're talking about a major hurricane size-wise," said Ben Taylor, a spokesman with the State Emergency Response Office in Raleigh, North Carolina.

"You're going to be looking at extremely dangerous hurricane winds, and peripheral rains."

Bertha was expected to make landfall around Wilmington, North Carolina by midday Friday, the National Weather Service estimated.

But there were a few signs its punch might be a bit less fierce than earlier thought, with wind gusts dipping to a maximum 128 kilometers (80 miles) per hour. The storm also was downgraded during Thursday to a category one, the lowest intensity hurricane.

U.S. Lashes Out at Colombian President With Entry Ban

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States revoked the entry visa of Colombian President Ernesto Samper, despite his having been cleared of drug charges, triggering anger and concern among Colombians.

The Colombian government denounced the the measure as "unilateral and "interventionist" in a statement read by outgoing Foreign Minister Rogrigo Pardo.

On announcing the revocation of Samper's visitor's visa on Thursday, State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns said: "Our message is clear: People who knowingly assist narcotraffickers are not welcome in the United States."

Burns said other ranking members of the Colombian government had been told they were not welcome in this country, but declined to name names.

The slap at Samper comes amid increasing friction between the two countries following the Colombian president's exoneration by Congress last month of charges he financed his 1994 election campaign in part by knowingly accepting six million dollars from the Cali Cocaine Cartel.

"That is a serious charge. And that is why the United States ... has taken this extraordinary step today." Burns said. U.S. officials had said publicly before his acquittal that the evidence against Samper appeared damning.



LONDON, United Kingdom (July 10): South African President Nelson Mandela and British Prime Minister John Major, talk with newsmen outside No 10 Downing Street on the second day of Mandela's state visit to Britain.

(AFP PHOTO)

Noose Tightens Around Former Indian Premier

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Former Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's political future was on the line on Friday as leaders of his Congress (I) Party gathered here amid growing demands for his ouster as party president.

The Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's top decision-making body, was scheduled to meet in the capital late Friday to discuss whether the 75-year-old Rao should remain at the helm of India's oldest political party.

The veteran politician from the southern state of Andhra Pradesh has been facing a simmering rebellion in the 111-year-old Congress since presiding over the party's humilitating defeat in April-May general elections.

A number of former allies have come out openly against Rao in recent days after he was named a co-accused on Tuesday in a fraud case filed by a Indian businessman.

Businessman Lekhubhai Pathak has accused then-Foreign Minister Rao and a controversial Hindu mystic, Chandraswami, of cheating him out of $100,000 in 1983 by promising a contract which never materialized.

AIDS Conference Wraps Up With Talk of New Targets for Research

VANCOUVER (AFP) — AIDS researchers, activists, doctors, and drug manufacturers wrapped up the 11th International Conference on AIDS Thursday amid talk of the next big target in AIDS research.

The closure of the conference, the most upbeat in years, was interrupted by a polite protest from act up, chanting, "Where's Dingwall?"

A man who is HIV positive took the stage criticizing Canadian Health Minister David Dingwall who had left the conference with the flu, sending a sarcastic note and flowers.

Conference organizers tolerated limited protests aimed at government officials and drug companies, which activists have accused of indifference and greed.

Research news from the conference was dominated by an obscure new class of drugs called protease inhibitors which bind to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS and prevent it from reproducing.

These, used in various combinations, have been shown to slash the amount of HIV in the blood but have only been tested in small groups of people for no longer than two years.

"We're seeing a very dramatic anti-retroviral effect," said David Ho, director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York and one of the research stars of this conference.

The next big target could be the mechanism HIV virus uses to stick to and penetrate the healthy cell, said researcher Nathanial Landau of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in a study released Thursday.

U.S. Expects Japan to Meet July 31 Deadline for Agreement

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite little progress so far, the Clinton administration said it fully expects Japan to live up to its commitment to reach agreements on two contentious trade issues - computer chips and insurance - by the end of this month.

Acting U.S. trade representative Charlene Barshefsky discounted recent published reports that bureaucrats in Japan's powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) were trying to back away from the commitment made by Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Hashimoto and Clinton agreed at a meeting in Lyon, France, last month to set a July 31 deadline for reaching agreement in semiconductors and insurance.

Barshefsky told reporters Thursday that she understood that MITI officials had been taken by surprise by the decision but that the United States viewed the July deadline as firm.

"It is completely clear that there will be a bilateral agreement before July 31 on semiconductors, government to government," she said. "It is a commitment (Hashimoto) explicitly made to the president of the United States, so I am sure it will be fulfilled."

U.S. officials told reporters in Tokyo on Wednesday that little progress had been made in narrowing differences following two days of talks on computer chips with both sides remaining far apart on the role that governments should play in promoting foreign access to Japan's chip market.

Talks are scheduled for next week in Tokyo on the insurance issue, where the United States is complaining that Japan has failed to live up to the market-opening commitments made in an October 1994 deal.

The computer chip dispute involves a 1991 agreement, bitterly opposed by Japan, that established a 20 percent target for foreign market share of the huge Japanese chip market. Japan for years has blasted the deal as managed trade and said they would never be forced into another such arrangement with the United States.

The administration says it is not looking for a particular market share target but that governments have a monitoring role to play to ensure that the current foreign market share of more than 30 percent does not start decreasing once the 1991 accord ends on July 31.

Barshefsky told reporters that she would be discussing the chip issue when she meets next week with Japanese Trade Minister Shunpei Tsukahara in Christchurch, New Zealand. The two will be attending a trade ministers meeting of the Asia Pacific economic cooperation forum next Monday and Tuesday.

But she said it was "unlikely" that the two trade officials would be able to reach a deal at that time.

U.S., Croatia and Bosnia Sign Memorandum on Roads

DUBROVNIK, Croatia (AFP) — U.S. commerce secretary Mickey Kantor and the Croatian and Bosnian prime ministers signed a memorandum Thursday for a major road building project linking the two former Yugoslav republics.

One road will run from Zagreb through the northwest Bosnian town of Bihac down to the historic port-city of Dubrovnik. The other will link the Croatian Port of Ploce with the city of Mostar, southern Bosnia, and Sarajevo.

Kantor, traveling with U.S. business leaders in the footsteps of his predecessor Ron Brown, who died in a plane crash three months ago, said the project forms part of plans to achieve "prosperity for peace."

He told reporters that it was important that both Croatian Prime Minister Zlatko Matesa and Bosnian Prime Minister Hassan Muratovic had met and the economic ties were a symbolic link.

"This is just a beginning," he said. "America stands shoulder by shoulder ready to fill this future."

Another memorandum was signed on the development of Ploce Harbor, Croatia's second largest port. The U.S. is expected to contribute half a million dollars.

Matesa and Muratovic also signed bilateral agreements on visas for Bosnian citizens and on the management of water resources.

Conditions for the resumption of air traffic between the two states are also in place, Matesa said.



ANJIANG, China (July 5): Pan Zhansaong plants the last patch of his paddy fields in Fuchunjiang Tonglu district, about 130 kilometers southwest of Hanzhou.Flood water damaged half of his planted paddy earlier this week but the rest of his planted crop survived. The death toll has soared to more than 300 in the worst floods to hit southern and eastern China for half a century, according to the Chinese Red Cross.

(AFP PHOTO)

China Prepares for 30-Billion-Yuan Bond Issue

BEIJING (AFP) — China is to offer 30 billion yuan ($3.57 billion) in three-year treasury bonds next month, the Ministry of Finance announced Friday.

The bonds will be issued from August 6 to 26 in three denominations — 100 yuan, 1,000 yuan and 5,000 yuan.

Principle and interest, which will be calculated starting the first day of the bond issue, will be repayable after the bonds mature on August 6, 1999.

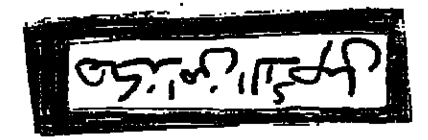
The bonds can be listed and traded on the secondary market immediately after issuance, the ministry said.

Before being offered to the public, the bonds will be underwritten, through open bidding, by primary dealers and other securities institutions.

So far this year, China has floated several groups of treasury bonds, with a total value of more than 112 billion yuan.

The country plans to issue 195.257 billion yuan worth of bonds by the end of the year, compared to 152 billion yuan in 1995.

A batch of 10-year bonds issued last month and carrying an annual interest rate of 11.83 percent made their trading debut Friday, opening at 105.77 yuan, 5.77 yuan above their face value, in heavy trading.



هكذا من الأصل

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TV Programs

Saturday Evening, July 13

National Network, Channel 1:

12:30 Focus on Family
13:10 Call to Prayer (Azan)
14:00 News
14:30 Focus on Family
15:00 You & the IRIB
15:45 Kids Corner
16:30 News
17:00 Children's Program
18:00 Interlude
18:15 Qom's Friday Prayer Sermons
18:50 The Move
19:00 News
19:30 Story of Devotion
19:50 Interlude
20:05 Art & Culture
20:40 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:45 Review of Day's Major News Stories
20:50 The Martyrs
21:00 News
21:30 Commercials
21:40 Summer of 1375
22:00 Commercials
22:10 Iranian TV Series
23:00 Telecommmunications & Development
24:00 Quiz Show

National Network, Channel 2:

13:10 Religious Program
13:30 The Rise of East
14:00 Foreign TV Series
15:00 Training Football
15:30 Teaching Arabic
16:00 Arabic in University
16:30 Mathematics in University
17:00 Focus on Living (teaching requirements of life)
18:00 Children's Program
19:00 The Forerunner
19:20 Life's Light
20:00 Summer
20:30 Scientific, Cultural News
20:42 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:50 Interlude
21:00 Iranian TV Series
22:00 Art & Thought
22:30 News
22:45 Notes of the Night
23:00 Special Program on Moharram
23:10 Feature Movie

National Network, Channel 3:

16:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
16:15 The Tops
16:30 The Best Sports Events
17:00 Religious Program
17:30 Sports Program
18:15 Interlude
18:30 Innovators
19:00 For Tomorrow
19:30 The 2nd Season
19:45 Sports News
20:00 (Documentary)
20:35 Thoughts
20:42 Call to Prayer (Azan)
21:00 Sports Roundup
22:45 News (in English)

National Network, Tehran Channel:

17:00 Local Information
17:20 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
17:30 Face to Face
18:00 Quiz Show
18:20 Game with Words
18:30 Tehran's News
18:45 In the City
19:00 Travel & Visit
19:20 Other Kind

19:30 Medical Points
19:50 Research
20:00 Commercial Program
20:30 Justice
20:45 Call to Prayer (Azan)
21:00 Tehran's Districts
21:15 Our Home
21:30 Face to Face
22:00 News
22:15 In the City
22:30 Wild Animals Domain
22:40 Memories
23:00 Selected Programs
24:00 Sound & Sights

Sunday Morning, July 14

National Network, Channel 1:

06:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
06:15 Good morning Iran
09:10 Children's Program
10:10 Iranian TV Series
11:00 Children Program
12:00 Story of Victory
12:30 Focus on Family
13:10 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network, Channel 2:

06:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
06:15 Art & Thought
07:00 Domestic Documentary
07:45 Program Announcement
08:00 Man, Science, Future
08:30 Training Football
09:00 Preliminary Arabic
09:30 Preventing Disabilities
09:50 Interlude
10:00 Kids Corner
11:00 Focus on Living (teaching requirements of life)
12:00 Summer
12:30 Ashura Culture
13:10 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network, Channel 3:

07:30 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
07:45 Morning Exercises
09:30 The Tops
09:45 Reflection
10:00 The Youth (in Shiraz)
10:30 Speak to Me
11:00 Interlude
11:30 Thoughts

PAMPLONA, Spain (Espana) (July 9): Young men fall on the cobblestone street of Pamplona as a bull chases others during the third encierro, the race before the horns of the bulls, of the nine-day bullfighting festival San Fermin 1996. The third encierro was fast and clear with no injuries reported.

(AFP PHOTO)

Plans to Shoot Horses Cause Uproar

AUCKLAND (AFP) – Sometime soon on the slopes of erupting Mount Ruapehu government hunters will start shooting dozens of wild horses in a controversial bid to reduce the size of one of the world's last great herds of feral horses.

Unlike the government ordered killing of deer, rabbit and possums the plan to cull the horses has sparked passionate debate.

Claims have been made that the government will use helicopter gunships again, in the 1970s deer were controlled this way, and that the horses will be sold to foreign pet food manufacturers.

Last week 100 people picketed Department of Conservation (DOC) headquarters in Wellington in a bid to stop the cull.

Anti-cull campaigner Ian Shearer told the crowd it was not too late for the cull to be stopped and urged people opposed to the plan to continue to lobby politicians.

The International League for the Protection of Horses has called for the horses to be treated with a vaccine that inhibits fertility.

The issue is so sensitive DOC has taken four years and 5,000 public submissions to make up its mind.

The 1,800 horses lend a magnificent touch to the Kaimanawa range which forms the eastern boundary of the windswept and wildly beautiful central plateau in the middle of the North Island, dominated by Ruapehu.

The "desert road" linking Auckland and Wellington passes through the area while the army has an enormous training range there.

The horses are descendants of escaped British army cavalry horses left behind after the colonial land wars of the 1860s and later in 1877 deliberately released Exmoor ponies and Welsh stallions, the most primitive of British breeds.

Earlier this century the herd was much bigger but they were killed for sport or for pet food manufacturing and for rodeos and by 1979 they were down to around 170 head and largely within the army's training ground area of 50,000 hectares (192 square miles).

In 1981 the government declared them protected animals. Their numbers have grown 10 fold since.

This has created new problems, not the least that wild horses are being hit by cars on state highway one. And the herd has pushed northward onto land managed by DOC.

For many New Zealanders the central plateau is a wasteland, suitable for the army and wild horses, but ecologists see it as a place of exceptional and fragile beauty.

It contains species of grasses and plants that occur nowhere else and their survival is threatened by the horses' hooves. Already 11 species are considered rare, vulnerable or endangered.

DOC's plan is to cull out the horses that are pushing north while retaining a herd of 500 on the original range.

The operational plan for the cull is expected to be approved by Conservation Minister Simon Upton within the next two weeks as DOC has to complete this year's cull before the end of August, when the horses begin foaling.

The Royal Forest and Bird Society has condemned the emotionalism, saying the central plateau was one of the most important wilderness areas left and is being damaged by burgeoning numbers of horses.

"The killing of horses is a part of everyday life," the Society says. "About 600 horses are slaughtered each week in New Zealand – about a quarter of these go to the 'knacker's yard' for export overseas for human consumption. The remainder are killed for pet food."

Senior Intelligence Officer to be Arrested for Murder

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) – A senior South African intelligence official is among five former and current police agents likely to be charged with the 1981 murder of an African National Congress (ANC) activist, the SAPA news agency said Thursday.

KwaZulu-Natal Province Attorney General Tim McNally issued a preliminary order this week for the arrests of five men, including top intelligence official Dirk Coetzee, an admitted member of one of South Africa's most notorious apartheid-era police units, SAPA said.

A judicial arrest warrant is likely to follow in coming days, the news agency added.

Coetzee and the others – former hit squad members Almond Nofomela and David Tshilalanga and policemen Andy Taylor and Johannes Van Der Hoven – are accused of the savage stabbing death of ANC activist Griffiths Mxenge on November 19, 1981 in the port of Durban.

Until now, no one had been charged in the high-profile murder, despite a television interview last year in which Coetzee confessed to the crime and asked for forgiveness from the victim's family.

Coetzee also told a judge in the trial of another former intelligence agent, Eugene de Kock, that his four co-accused had participated in the murders along with another man, Joe Mamasela.

In 1989, Nofomela claimed while on death row for another murder that the Mxenge killing had been carried out by a police hit squad.

At the time, Frederik Willem de Klerk's conservative National Party government responded with an investigation, which ended inconclusively.

On Thursday, Mxenge's brother, Fumbatha, said he and his family were "delighted" with news of the imminent arrests.

"We will never forgive (Coetzee) for what he did ... it impacted heavily on us," he told SAPA. "We are interested in justice in this case."

Fumbatha said both his parents had suffered to the point where they died of heart failure not long after Mxenge's death.

"They could not take the way he was killed," he said.

Earlier Thursday, KwaZulu-Natal Province Attorney-General Tim McNally confirmed the imminent arrest of five suspects, but refused to identify them, citing concern lest the suspects should try to flee the country.

Nofomela remains in prison and has, for several years, not been allowed by authorities to speak to the media.

He and Tshilalanga are both known to have worked secretly for the police while they were members of the anti-apartheid movement, SAPA said.

Fake Cop Gets Jail

SINGAPORE (AFP) – A Singaporean canteen assistant who pretended to be a senior police officer and booked a motorist for using a handphone while driving has landed in jail.

Anthony Foo Chee Weng, 28, stopped businessman Chong Chee Meng, reprimanded him for dangerous driving and took down his particulars after identifying himself as an officer, press reports said Friday.

Foo made an appointment for the next day to meet Chong at a downtown location, where he noticed the businessman had stubbed out a cigarette on the ground, *The Straits Times* said.

Foo told Chong he had committed another offence, littering, took out a police form and recorded a statement, *The Straits Times* said.

In the space for the rank of recording officer, he identified himself as an assistant commissioner.

The pretender, a former member of a volunteer constabulary, was arrested after a suspicious Chong complained to the police a few days later, the newspaper said, adding that he was jailed Thursday for two weeks.

Dolphin to be Mascot for Hong Kong Handover Celebration

HONG KONG (AFP) – The endangered Chinese white dolphin has been unanimously chosen as mascot for the celebration marking the handover of Hong Kong to China next year.

The rare creature, which faces extinction in Hong Kong because its habitat is being destroyed by constant reclamation, was chosen by the China-formed Preparatory Committee at a meeting in Beijing on Thursday, newspapers said.

The committee has been formed to set up the first post-handover Hong Kong government.

The Chinese white dolphin, which actually has an unusual pinkish color, was suggested by committee member Raymond Wu.

There was little debate, reports said, as the dolphin has exactly the character of Hong Kong – "clever, cute, kind, active and inoffensive" in the words of Wu.

Wu told the PC panel preparing the handover ceremony on July 1 next year that the dolphin reflected Hong Kong's history as a fishing port as it travelled regularly to the Yangtze River.

He said the Chinese white dolphin never slept – half its brain kept functioning – representing the hardworking people of Hong Kong.

In recent months eight endangered Chinese white dolphins have been found dead in Hong Kong waters.

There around 80 Indo-Pacific hump-back dolphins – commonly known as Chinese white dolphins – in Hong Kong territorial waters, according to a three-year study commissioned by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department.

The construction of the mammoth new Chek Lap Kok Airport has seriously affected the living environment of the Chinese white dolphins as the airport involves land reclamation, bridges, tunnels and a proliferation of transport craft plying local waters.

Top Re
AID





























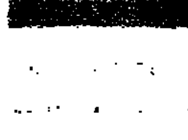
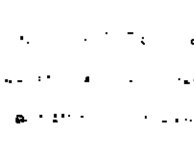
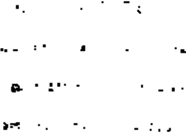
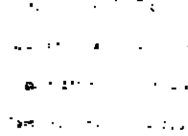
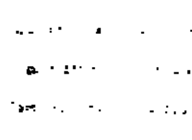
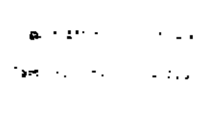
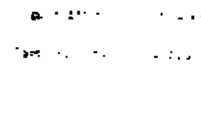
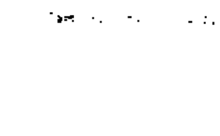
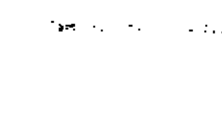










Top Researchers Offer Hope AIDS May Be Treatable

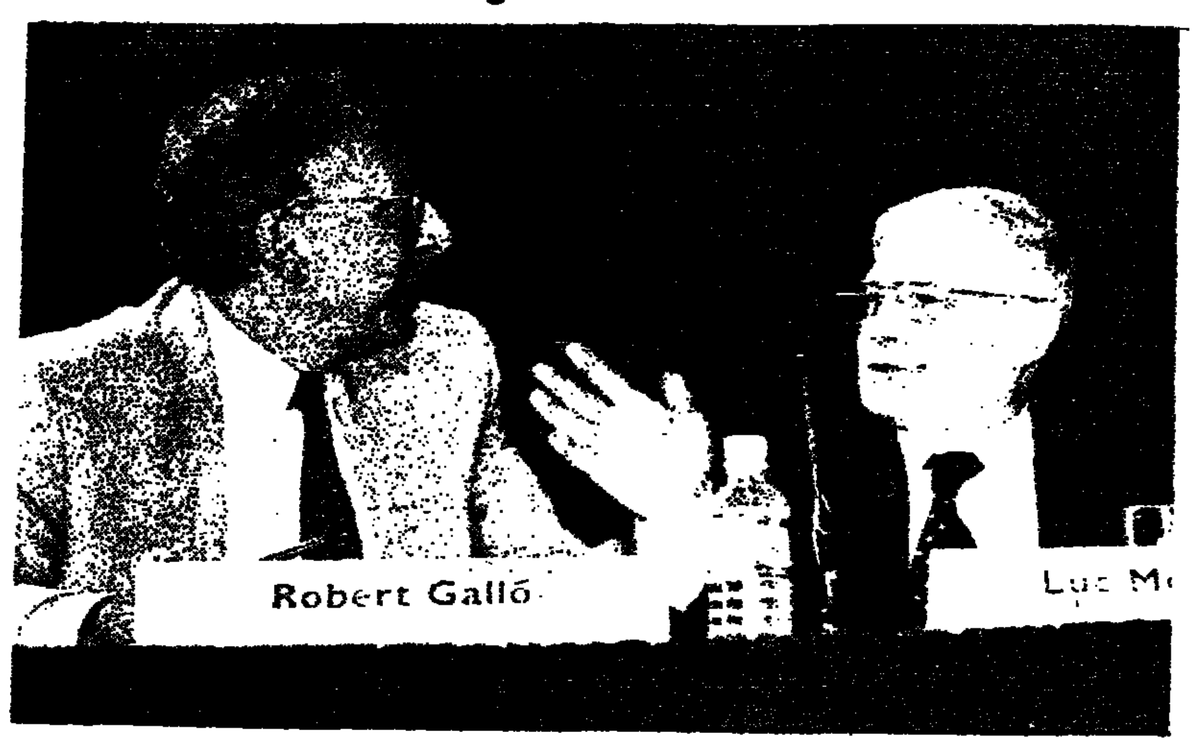
VANCOUVER, British Columbia (Reuter) — Top AIDS researchers presented solid evidence that a disease that has killed nearly 6 million people may have become treatable thanks to complex 'cocktails' of experimental drugs.

Speakers at the 11th International Conference on AIDS drew cheers and applause from nearly 15,000 delegates as they summed up recent breakthroughs in combination drug treatments, which for the first time offer hope that AIDS may no longer be a death sentence.

The new drug mixes 'have taught us a lot about treatment ... and hope for the future,' said Dr. Scott Hammer, head of the Department of Infectious Diseases at Noston's Deaconess Hospital and Harvard Medical School. "Access and cost are major obstacles to the Third World. But there is hope for more and more results in the years to come and for control of the HIV virus."

The excitement centers on startling results achieved by combining expensive new drugs, called protease inhibitors, with more traditional anti-AIDS treatments such as AZT and other drugs.

Scientists are now openly voicing hope that these cocktails will batter the resilient human immunodeficiency virus into submission, perhaps even eradicating it from the bodies of patients now condemned to die.



VANCOUVER, Canada: Dr. Robert Gallo (L) and AIDS researcher Luc Montagnier (R), discuss the issues at the Distinguished Lecturer Series during the 11th Internatinal Conference on AIDS in Vacouver Canada July 8. The conference opened July 7 with a flourish of protests, talk of new therapies to attack the HIV virus and warnings that these drugs are expensive and poorly tested.

(AFP PHOTO)

"Just six months ago, this statement would have been seen as far-fetched or even ludicrous," Hammer said, capturing the buoyant mood of the conference in contrast to other international meetings — notably the one in Yokahama, Japan, two years ago — that were pervaded by the medical community's gloom and frustration.

Potent drug combinations including protease inhibitors, which attack an enzyme crucial to the multiplication of HIV, have already succeeded in reducing the virus to undetectable levels in some patients, raised their counts of CD-4 immune cells, and dramatically improved their health, appearance and quality of life.

Despite the advances being trumpeted at the conference, there is still deep caution in dealing with a virus that is a moving target. Until recently, it has outsmarted researchers by mutating — transforming itself into different strains — and building swift resistance to drug therapies.

"We're at a crossroads in the HIV pandemic. We are starting to see glimmers of hope ... but I stress glimmers," Dr. Martin Schechter, one of the conference organizers, said.

Much is still unknown about the long-term effectiveness of the new drugs. Will the virus be able to develop resistance to different combinations? Is it finding hiding places in the brain, the intestines, the tonsils, the lymph nodes or other areas of the body where it may escape detection by tests of 'viral load,' the amount of virus in the blood?

"The jury's still out," said Dr. Michelle Daniels, a general practitioner from Princeton, New Jersey, who treats AIDS patients.

Drug mixes including protease inhibitors can cost around $15,000 a year in the United States. They are thus totally out of reach of patients in the Third World, where the United Nations estimates 90 percent of the world's 21.8 million HIV- infected people live.

The only course in Africa and Asia is preventive medicine and the hope, one day, of a vaccine. But a vaccine is still a long way off, and already rich nations, researchers and drug companies are drawing fire for allegedly failing to devote enough resources to finding one.

Donors Pledge $1bn to Jordan

PARIS (REUTER) — Donor nations, expressing support for Amman's economic reforms, pledged about $1 billion in development aid to Jordan, the World Bank said on Wednesday.

Adil Kanaan, the World Bank's Chief of Country Operations for the Middle East, said the amount was divided among loans, grants and guarantees with some $600 million pledged for 1996.

The rest was pledged for disbursement over the next two years, Kanaan said.

The donors praised Jordan's good economic management and performance of recent years.

As of June 30, 1995, Jordan had received loans and credits totalling $1.272 billion, the World Bank said. The International finance corporation, the private-sector investment arm of the World Bank, had approved 15 investments totalling $180.8 million, it added.

THOUGHT

YOU come into the world alone and you go out of the world alone, yet it seems to me you are more alone while living than even going and coming.

Emily Carr, Canadian author

PRAYER

Noon 13:10
Evening 20:43
Dawn (tomorrow) 4:05
Sunrise (tomorrow) 6:00

TODAY IN HISTORY

1863 - Rioting against U.S. civil war military conscription breaks out in New York City, and about 1,000 people are killed in three days of disorder.

1878 - Russo-Turkish war ends.

1911 - Britain and Japan renew their alliance for four years.

1919 - First dirigible to cross Atlantic Ocean, Britain's 4-34, completes its round trip.

1963 - Chinese accuse United States of trying to poison relations between Peking and Moscow.

1971 - Firing squads in Morocco execute 10 army officers accused of trying to overthrow King Hassan.

1976 - Twelve nations conclude meeting in Paris on exploitation of minerals in Antarctic after 1989.

1989 - Bomb explodes outside Honduras discotheque patronized by U.S. soldiers, wounding seven U.S. army military policemen.

1990 - Mayors of Moscow and Leningrad show solidarity with populist Boris Yeltsin by resigning from Communist Party on last day of party congress.

1991 - Iraq requests emergency meeting of 21-nation Arab League to discuss military threats against that country if it doesn't fully disclose extent of nuclear activities.

1992 - President Bush announces that the United States will no longer produce plutonium and highly-enriched uranium for weapons.

1993 - Croat militiamen in Mostar embark on a new wave of ethnic cleansing, detaining hundreds of Muslim men and evicting women, children and the elderly from their homes.

SCRABBLE® BRAND G₂ R₁ A₁ M₃ S₁

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F4	E1	I1	I1	D2	W4	M3	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
C3	E1	I1	N1	K5	U1	Q10	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
R1	P3	U1	O1	G2	D2	M3		RACK 3
C3	Y4	O1	S1	E1	R1	R1	Double Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 230-240

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

11-21-94

Here is the solution to Thursday's Scrabble

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

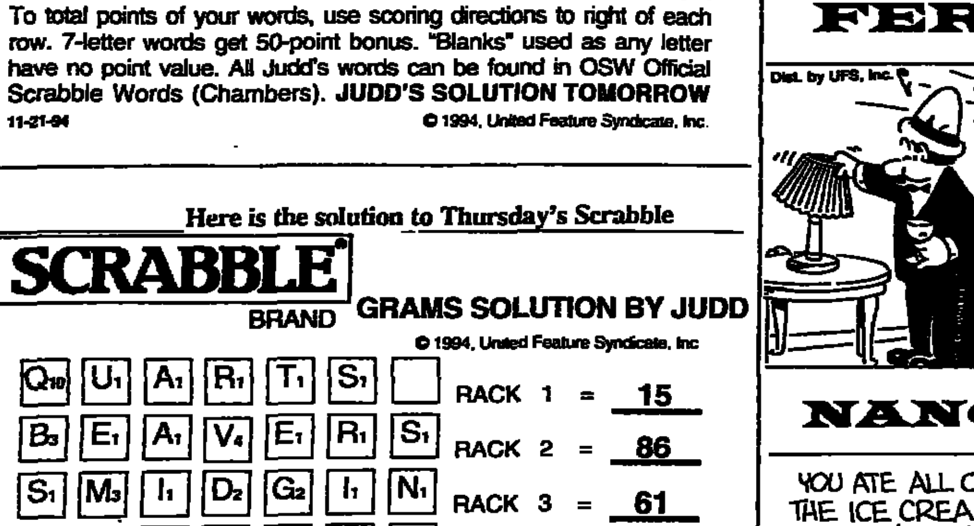
Q10	U1	A1	R1	T1	S1		RACK 1 =	15
B3	E1	A1	V4	E1	R1	S1	RACK 2 =	86
S1	M3	I1	D2	G2	I1	N1	RACK 3 =	61
C3	O1	E1	R1	C3	E1	S1	RACK 4 =	72
L1	O1	O1	S1	E1	S1	T1	RACK 5 =	57

PAR SCORE 190-200 JUDD'S TOTAL 291

11-20-94

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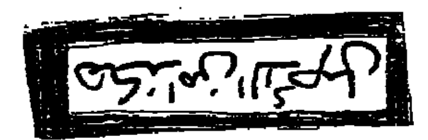
HEALTH CAPSULES®
by Michael A. Petti, M.D.



Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.







In the Name of Allah

Tender No. 75/17

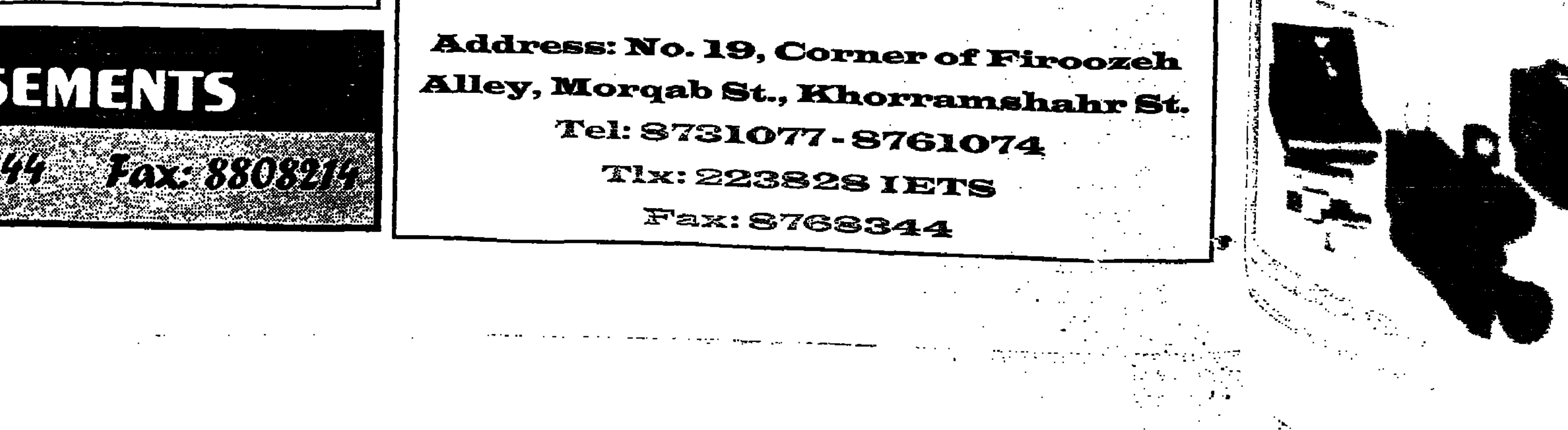
Telecommunications Company of Iran

Telecommunications Company of Iran (TCI) intends to purchase by way of an international tender the required IDR/DCME equipment of international earth stations as per the technical specifications attached to draft of contract as well as the tender conditions.

Non-Iranian firms having an agent in Iran willing to participate in the tender may refer to Room 306, the Secretariat of Purchasing & Contracts Dept. (P&C Dept.), Building No. 5, Dr. Shariati Ave. within office hours, receive a letter of introduction, deposit the amount of Rls.100,000 through their official agents to TCI's Account No. 90018 and collect the tender documents consisting of draft of contract tender conditions & technical specifications taking the content into consideration. The bidders are requested to prepare their offers in 3 sealed envelopes marked A, B and C, hand it to the Secretariat of P&C Dept. at the above address latest by the end of office hours on Sep. 15, 96 against a receipt.

Deputy Managing Director for Finance, Procurement and Manpower
Telecommunications Company of Iran
Address: Bldg. No. 5, Bisim, Dr. Ali Shariati Ave., Tehran-Iran

A company intends to purchase 9,200 tons of import iron rods in different sizes in a tender. The participants are required to visit in person, no later than five days after the date of advertising, the Commercial Management at the following address to receive tender bonds.



Address: No. 19, Corner of Firoozeh Alley, Morqab St., Khorramshahr St.
Tel: 8731077 - 8761074
Tlx: 223828 IETS
Fax: 8768344

Cut-Down Lebed Defers to Yeltsin

MOSCOW (AFP) —General Alexander Lebed has apparently put aside his recent lust for more power - at least temporarily - and placed himself squarely in the shadow of President Boris Yeltsin.

The Kremlin's new security chief seemed only a ghost of his former tough-talking self Thursday when he met the press to outline his plans for a crackdown on organized crime in Moscow.

Deliberately taking a low profile, Lebed deferred constantly to Yeltsin, apparently anxious not to give the impression that he was seeking to usurp the president's prerogatives.

"It is the president's role to decide this. I am only a senior official. I am not the president," Lebed said in answer to one question.

The attitude of Lebed, who took over on June 18 as head of the influential Security Council, was in marked contrast to the naked ambition he demonstrated after being appointed between the two rounds of the presidential election.

On Thursday, he was careful to keep to the Kremlin line on the war in Chechnya, which he was previously wont to criticize in such blunt terms that he was dismissed last year as commander-in-chief of the 14th Army in Moldova and ousted from the military command structure.

Chechen independence — a development which he toyed with openly only a few weeks ago — "would lead to a major war in the Caucasus", Lebed told journalists.

Lebed, 46, a moderate nationalist who garnered a surprising 15 percent in the first round of the presidential poll, swallowed his pride further, saying he did not have the power to tell General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov the Russian military commander in Chechnya how to run the war.

"I am only a retired general, I have no right to give orders to General Tikhomirov," said Lebed, who had asserted just after taking up his new post that he was a "born winner" and his "hour would come".

One Western analyst said it was possible that "Lebed has been given a dressing down by the president. He has obviously opted not to meddle in everything, not to get involved in polemics and concentrate on tackling the smallest but also one of the most difficult talks he faces: Restoring order in Moscow."

A decree signed Wednesday by Yeltsin stipulated that the secretary of the Security Council was "an official answerable directly to the head of state". "The president appoints him and removes him," the decree pointedly recalled.

Lebed has wide-ranging powers nonetheless and his political future could be assured provided he can keep on Yeltsin's good side and satisfy popular pressure for tougher action against crime and corruption.

Under the presidential decree, Lebed is empowered to denounce senior officials whose actions appear inconsistent with their official positions.

The secretary "controls the implementation of Security Council decisions and monitors the work of federal government organs charged with maintaining national security", the degree said.



ANKARA, Turkey: Turkish Welfare Party leader Necmettin Erbakan (L) is congratulated by Great Unity Party (BBP) leader Muhsin Yazicioglu, who gave the support of his eight deputies to Erbakan as the coalition government of Turkey's first Islamist prime minister won a parliamentary vote of confidence with 278 against 265 votes.

(AFP PHOTO)

Bruton Tells Major of "Anger and Deep Concern" Over Orange March

DUBLIN (AFP) — Irish Prime Minister John Bruton on Thursday told his British counterpart John Major of "widespread anger and deep concern" in Ireland over the decision earlier in the day to let an Orange order march proceed through a Catholic district in Ulster.

The two premiers spoke for 20 minutes by telephone, an Irish government statement said, adding that Bruton also told Major he was dismayed that "elaborate preparations which were made to prevent this provocative march were simply thrown aside in the face of massive intimidation."

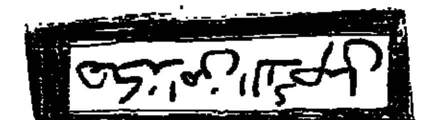
Major replied that the decision on the Drumcree march had been taken by the province's police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), to avoid a perceived risk of loss of life, a Downing Street spokesman said.

Both premiers "agreed on the need for restraint on all sides, and to find ways of stopping such occurrences happening in future", the spokesman added.

Earlier Thursday, Bruton, on a visit to Paris, said he was "gravely concerned" about the decision to let the march proceed, saying he recalled that Dublin and London had agreed that marches should not take place along routes where they were not wanted.

The RUC had been locked in a standoff since Sunday with Protestants over the Orange order's demand to march along the route they have taken for 189 years from a country church in the hamlet of Drumcree, 40 kilometers (25 miles) southwest of Belfast, to their homes in Portadown.

RUC chief Hugh Annesley justified his decision to end the standoff and let the march proceed saying the risk of large-scale violence was too high.



Japan Confirms Plan to Launch European Satellite

TOKYO (AFP) – Japan's space agency confirmed Friday it would launch an experimental European satellite using an enhanced version of its H-2 rocket, in its first major cooperation agreement with the European Space Agency (ESA).

The H-2A, a development of the H-2, the first all-Japanese commercial rocket, will launch the three-ton satellite ARTEMIS in January or February 2000, said National Space Development Agency (NASDA) spokesman Yoko Inomata.

The announcement came eight days after NASDA said it had reached an agreement in principle with the U.S. giant Hughes for launching more than 10 Hughes satellites from 2000.

The placing of ARTEMIS (advanced relay and technology mission) into a geostationary transfer orbit will be done for free. In exchange, Japan will be given some access to data from the experiments, which will focus on data relay.

"This is the first significant cooperation between NASDA and ESA," the agency said in a statement.

"This cooperation is a first step. We will study other cooperation in other fields on the long-term viewpoint," it added.

Cooperation may extend to a planned earth-observation satellite called Adeos and even joint exploration of the moon, it said.

The H-2 is considered to be a direct competitor to Europe's Ariane-4 and U.S., Chinese and Russian launchers.

Analysts say NASDA will have to work hard to reduce launch costs, which currently are 19 billion yen ($172 million) and have to be cut to 8.5 billion yen in order to be competitive. Ariane-4 launches cost around $100 million, according to some estimates.

APEC Meet to Showcase Clean Technology

MANILA (AFP) – Applications of clean technology will be featured at the next APEC ministers meeting on sustainable development to be held in Canada next year, an official announced Friday.

Karen Kraft Sloan, Canada's parliamentary secretary for the environment, said the Canada meeting to be held in March would also pursue greater dialogue with the private sector on creating sustainable cities.

The term sustainable cities refers to cities with a planned environment not overburdened by population, traffic or industry.

Canada is to assume the leadership of the 18-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum from the Philippines, which currently holds it.

At a ministers' meeting here on sustainable development which began Thursday, APEC members hoped to reach consensus on a declaration that would give priority to ensuring development that does not harm the environment.

The declaration will be forwarded to leaders at the APEC summit in November at the northern free port of Subic.

APEC groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

Wonder Drugs or Fraud?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just months after Douglas Wagner went on national television and before Congress to praise an unproven drug for obliterating his brain tumor, he got a shock: The cancer was back.

Wagner's trauma illustrates the contention swirling over "antineoplastons".

Are they the wonder drugs that desperate patients wish for? Or are patients the victims of a fraud charged in a federal indictment of the drugs' creator, Dr. Stanislaw Burzynski?

"There is a long history of promises of miraculous treatments, and they unfortunately generally don't pan out," said Dr. Richard Klausner, director of the National Cancer Institute.

Burzynski says the government and jealous colleagues unfairly persecuted him.

"Whenever you have a revolutionary who's going to change the science, that's what you're going to get," the Houston, Texas, doctor said in an interview.

And dozens of patients frustrated by mainstream medicine's failure to win the war against cancer have begged the government — and protested outside courthouses — to let them use antineoplastons. They say it's their right to choose.

"Without this treatment, my son will die" of a brain tumor, said Mariann Kunnari of Minnesota, sobbing.

But the government says Burzynski flouted rules designed to protect patients.

U.S. law requires that drugs be proved to work in rigorous clinical trials that ensure it's not just a coincidence patients got better. Doctors can't make a profit off experimental drugs, and patients must be told the drugs are unproved.

A 75-count federal indictment charges that Burzynski made $40 million selling unproven antineoplastons to 2,500 patients, violating Food and Drug Administration regulations and judges' orders to stop.

The biggest question is how patients fare over the long term. Take Wagner, whose brain scans showed in January that his tumor was gone. In April, it was back. Triple antineoplaston doses failed.

Burzynski pleaded innocent and faces trial in October. He says he charged patients not for the drug, but for his medical services.

To stay in practice, he agreed to do FDA-approved research to prove his drugs. Any other patients can use them only with special FDA permission after exhausting other treatments.

Burzynski says antineoplastons fit in well with current genetic findings — calling them biochemical switches that "turn off" cancer genes by interrupting signals for cells to multiply. He claims they also fight AIDS and multiple sclerosis.

He discovered them in human urine, collecting thousands of gallons from prisons to public parks before making them synthetically.

One main ingredient is mostly a fatty acid in everyone's body, called phenylacetate or PA. The liver metabolizes PA into a waste product called pag, another major ingredient. Burzynski also uses derivatives of PA and pag.

But if they are anticancer agents "and all the body's PA is collected in the liver and all pag is excreted in urine, how come we get liver cancer and bladder cancer?" asks biochemist Saul Green, who criticized the idea in the *Journal of the American Medical Association.*

Burzynski "knows very little about cancer ... or else he thinks that we are very stupid and he has tried to hoodwink us," wrote University of Toronto doctors in 1982, saying Burzynski's best patients frequently relapsed or benefited from other, approved treatments.

But the issue isn't that clear-cut. The National Cancer Institute did find evidence, in seven patients, of antitumor activity. The NCI started studies to prove the effect — but abandoned them last year, saying Burzynski wouldn't cooperate. He says the NCI wouldn't give patients proper doses.

Yet 16 hospitals today are conducting NCI-funded studies of whether one ingredient — phenylacetate — may indeed fight cancer.

The trials aren't finished so "all I can say at this point is we are encouraged by the preliminary data," said the University of Virginia's Dr. Dvorit Samid.

The biggest question is how patients fare over the long term.

Take Wagner, whose brain scans showed in January that his tumor was gone. In April, it was back.

"There is a long history of promises of miraculous treatments, and they unfortunately generally don't pan out."

Triple antineoplaston doses failed.

Wagner's doctor cannot explain the initial disappearance. But the relapse and a second patient who had "a flagrant progression of the tumor in 60 days" make him "extremely skeptical," said Dr. Gerald Warnock.

The government says some people feel cheated.

"My brother spent four months and $15,000, when he could have spent it on something that worked," said Lori Jones of Texas, whose late brother tried antineoplastons to fight AIDS.

U.S. Computer Future Is Sound

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The future of the U.S. computer industry remains healthy despite a plunge on Wall Street Thursday led by a hammering in technology issues, analysts maintained.

They said disappointing quarterly results released this week by two of the industry's leading performers, Hewlett-Packard (HP) and Motorola, stemmed from specific causes and do not reflect an overall industry tendency.

Also Thursday, the investment firm Merill Lynch described second half prospects for U.S. computer firms as "robust."

Worldwide personal computer sales should increase 19 percent in volume this year, the Dataquest Research Group has said. The big names in the sector foresee a boost in sales of between 16 and 18 percent, thanks to an expected pickup in demand in the second half of the year.

But on Wall Street Thursday sentiment was depressed, notably in response to the HP announcement.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 83.12 points or 1.5 percent to 5,520.53, the SP 500 dropped 10.40 to 645.66, the NYSE composite was off 5.11 at 346.64 and the NASDAQ composite fell 34.83 or 3.1 percent to 1,106.36.

Among computer firms, Hewlett-Packard fell 10-5/8 to 78-3/8, IBM dropped 3-1/2 to 95-5/8, Compaq was off four at 43-3/4, Sun Microsystems dropped 3-3/8 to 50-1/4, Microsoft lost five to finish at 114-1/2, and Intel gave up 3-3/8 to end the session at 69-1/2.

Michael Metz, principal economist at the Oppenheimer Investment Firm, predicted that for Hewlett-Packard and Motorola the difficulties would extend into the second half, mirroring an expected slowdown in U.S. economic momentum.

"I think we're in trouble," he said.

Motorola on Tuesday reported a 32 percent fall in net profit over its second quarter to $326 million, which resulted in earnings per share 20 percent below what analysts had expected.

The Illinois-based group was affected by problems at Apple, one of its major clients.

Hewlett-Packard, the world's second largest computer manufacturer, announced Wednesday it would apply a special $150-million pre-tax charge — partly to cover employee severance incentives — against the results of its third quarter, which ends July 31.

In addition, HP said it would abandon the production of disk-drive mechanisms and disclosed a slump in the rate of order growth in the first two months of the third quarter.

Sales of computer equipment, from personal computers to printers, have been largely behind HP's recent growth, accounting for nearly 80 percent of sales in the last quarter.

Results from other computer firms, which are to be released in the next two weeks, should also prove to be modest in response to weakening European demand, the strength of the dollar and traditional spring sluggishness.

"It looks like a tough quarter," said Steve Milunovich, an analyst with the New York brokerage firm Morgan Stanley.

Beijing University Roommates Locked in E-Mail Impersonation Suit

BEIJING (AFP) – A university student here has sued her roommate for allegedly sending an e-mail message in her name to decline a scholarship, Xinhua reported, calling it "China's first case of suspected e-mail abuse."

Xue Yange, a psychology master's student at Beijing University, in April received an e-mail message from the United States' Michigan University informing her that she had been offered a scholarship for further study, the official news agency said.

But she learned on April 27 that the U.S. university subsequently received a message in which she reportedly turned down the offer, saying she had chosen to attend another school.

Xue said Michigan was the only U.S. university that had offered her a scholarship and filed a court case accusing her roommate and psychology classmate, Zhang Nan, of sending the message in her name.

Xue and Zhang had been sharing the same e-mail address, which belonged to Zhang's tutor.

In addition to damages, the plaintiff is claiming 15,000 yuan ($1,807) in compensation for "spiritual loss and suffering," Xinhua said. Zhang said she would file a countersuit for defamation she has suffered in connection with the case.

The Haidian District People's Court in Beijing has concluded hearings, and a verdict is pending, Xinhua said.

West Accused Wife of "House of Horrors" Murders

BIRMINGHAM, England (AFP) – Before hanging himself in prison, Frederick West blamed his wife Rosemary for the so-called "house of horrors" murders, his daughter testified Thursday at an inquest into his death.

At the time of his death on New Year's day of last year, the 53-year-old builder was in custody accused of 12 killings, including those of his first wife Catherine, her daughter Charmaine and his daughter Heather.

His 41-year-old wife Rosemary was convicted in November of the sexual abuse, torture and murder of her 16-year-old daughter, 8-year-old stepdaughter, and eight girls and young women over a 20-year period ending in 1987.

Anne-Marie West, testifying before a nine-member jury on the first day of the inquest, said her father has written her a letter accusing Rosemary of being responsible for the murders.

"He actually wrote me a letter naming Rosemary as doing it."

Frederick later repeated the accusation, Anne-Marie said.

"When I went to see him, he said to me that there were other people involved and he would get his own back in the end."

"He said that Rosemary was the main person — that was why he was saying to me that he would be coming out of prison. He didn't feel he had any of the blame."

Frederick's death came as a surprise because he had never shown signs of depression or suicidal tendencies, Anne-Marie said.



KOUROU, French Guiana (July 10): The 89th Ariane European space rocket takes off from the Kourou Space Center with two communication satellites. Ariane launched 20 minutes later successfully the Arabsat-2A and Turksat-1C satellites.

(AFP PHOTO)

Self-Made Man Vows to Rebuild His Region, and His Country

BUGOJNO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) – Semir Rustempasic doesn't know whether he is the richest man in Bosnia, but he says he is the happiest.

From atop a hill in central Bosnia he can survey his green domain, stretching as far as the eye can see across the rolling countryside.

The 52-year-old millionaire is just one step away from achieving a six-year-old project interrupted by war: owning a goat farm and dairy in Bosnia's mountain wilderness.

"The war is over and it's business time," says Rustempasic, dressed in an old camouflage army uniform that now serves as work clothes.

He has little patience for compatriots who complain they don't have the strength to start rebuilding their war-ravaged country, and are trying to find an easier life abroad.

"The one who doesn't want to work at home won't work in America either," he says dismissively." The world is divided into workers and non-workers – that's the only division between people."

Rustempasic has mixed hard work and good luck with a dogged, do-it-yourself approach. He spent more than half a million German marks ($33,000) to build a road and electricity lines leading from Bugojno to his 3,000-square-meter tract of land.

Now he is sinking 1.5 million more German marks (nearly $1 million) into the construction of a large complex of barns and a milk factory.

Very few Bosnians managed to maintain their prewar assets and most of those who did — like Rustempasic - were among the wealthy prewar elite, and had holdings overseas.

For the few able to draw on capital to invest, Bosnia's postwar market is a boon, with its citizens seeking the consumables denied them throughout the war.

The first 200 goats of Rustempasic's planned 1,500-head flock were scheduled to arrive Friday. When the farm gets going, he will breed goats and produce 6,000 liters (nearly 2,500 gallons) of milk and cheese every day.

Before the war, Rustempasic built houses for 27 years. In the 1980s, he ran his own construction company in Medjugorje, a village in southern Herzegovina. When an apparition of the Virgin Mary was reported there, Medjugorje became a magnet for Roman Catholic pilgrims - and Rustempasic suddenly had contracts to build 17 new hotels worth 15.5 million German marks ($10.3 million).

The newly made millionaire returned to the Bugojno region, where his great-grandfather had owned land. The state took the land away in 1918 and gave it to the peasants that lived on it.

Rustempasic started buying the land off people who were just as happy to part with it and move into cities.

He was just about to build the goat farm when the Bosnian war broke out in 1992. He and his wife Tidja agonized over whether they should move to Austria, where he also had a construction company, or stay put.

"Oh, no, I concluded then: I'm so close to my dream, I'm not going to let it go now," he recalled.

Rustempasic gathered 346 people from the surrounding villages, bought weapons, ammunition and uniforms for them and went off to fight for his land. He and his 15-year-old son Selmir fought shoulder-to-shoulder for four years, along with the 356 soldiers of the unit.

His life spent building houses, he struggled to persuade his soldiers never to burn or destroy anything.

"Do you know what it takes to build this?" he recalled asking his men. "I knew it would all be needed once the war was over and people got back together. It would be bad for trade to have killed anybody around you - never mind it was war."

Much of his money melted away during the war. But Rustempasic went back to work on his dream right after the Dayton peace agreement was signed in November 1995 and he was demobilized.

He now employs 30 of his former soldiers, paying an average monthly salary of 900 German marks ($600) - at a time when the average in the rest of Bosnia is about one-tenth of that.

Ultimately, he plans to employ 150 people on his farm and factory. His goat herds will carry walkie-talkies so they can stay in contact with the farm while they are roaming the hills with the grazing goats.

"This is not an object for the future of the Rustempasic's, but for the future of the whole region," he said.

And his recommendation for Bosnia's future?

"Less politics and more work," he said.



France Expels Immigrants, Clashes With Church

PARIS (Reuter) — Seventy-five illegal immigrants were expelled from France late on Wednesday, bringing to 14,572 the number of aliens expelled in the past 14 months, the French Interior Ministry said on Thursday.

French Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debre said in a statement that the expulsion of immigrants from Morocco and Mali was the 21st such operation since conservative Prime Minister Alain Juppe took power.

Seven of the expulsions were organized in collaboration with Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

"We are now on the right path and no one can call us inefficient," Debre, in a veiled reference to pressure from the far-right National Front, told the daily Le Figaro in an interview published on Thursday.

"We will have to continue this policy in the long-term if it is to be credible," he added.

France has four million legal foreign residents and an estimated one million illegal immigrants.

The French bishops conference on Thursday criticized the government's hardline immigration policy. It urged the government to favor negotiations rather than radical solutions.

In the name of human rights and of France's international commitments, the bishops demanded special consideration for illegal immigrants voicing justified concerns about their safety in their home country, and for individuals with strong family ties in France.

Several Roman Catholic churches have sheltered illegal immigrants protesting at forthcoming expulsions, and senior church figures have voiced support for the demonstrators.

But Debre retorted: "the opinion of the church authorities will not prevent the government doing its job."

Two international reports this year slammed France's immigration policies.

In June, the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH) said the criteria for asylum had been stiffened, legal hurdles made virtually insurmountable and authorities had begun to presume asylum requests were unfounded. It said these had dropped by 66% between 1989 and 1995.

Last April, the UN human rights commission had said a "wave of xenophobia and racism" was shaking France as parties across the political spectrum used anti-immigrant feeling as an easy vote-winner.



BIRMINGHAM, United Kingdom (July 9): Three-year-old Ahmed Malik injured in the St Luke's School attack, is visited by his father Javed Pervaz as he recovers in Birmingham Children's Hospital. Police have arrested a man in connection with the attack in which a man attacked children and adults with a machete. (AFP PHOTO)

Last Large Group of Cambodian Refugees Returns Home

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Nearly 300 Cambodian boatpeople returned home by sea Wednesday, becoming the last major group of returnees from the waves of migrants who fled Cambodia in the 1970s and 1980s, UN officials said.

"They have arrived and everything sounds good," said Peter Van der Vaart of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). "I don't have all the details yet but we think they are all in good health."

The 277 refugees had been living at the UNHCR camp on Galang island, Indonesia, until it closed on June 30.

They arrived in the southern port of Sihanoukville after a three-day voyage and were met by UN, Cambodian government and Red Cross officials as well as representatives of Indonesia, he said.

The voyage was officially classed as a "voluntary repatriation," but about half of the returnees had been subject to deportation proceedings by the Indonesian government, Van der Vaart said.

"Overall this is a happy occasion, these people have come home after a long time," he said adding that there had been no violent incidents from refugees unwilling to come back.

Each adult from the 125 families was given $120 from the UN and Indonesia and all of them will be eligible for food aid from the world food program for the next 200 to 400 days, the UN said.

The families are expected to return to their home villages or villages in which they have relatives scattered across the country. The less than 100 who do not have homes to go to immediately will be temporarily housed in Pagodas in Phnom Penh.

Wednesday's repatriation comes just 10 days after the end of UN funding for refugee camps around Southeast Asia.

It means that only a handful of the more than 360,000 Cambodians who fled the Khmer Rouge regime and the ensuing Vietnamese invasion and occupation have yet to find a country of residence.

Most of the refugees who were not resettled in third countries during the 1970s and 1980s returned to Cambodia after the 1991 signing of the Paris Peace Accords which technically ended the country's long-running civil war.

Of the several hundreds that remained in the camps after that, only a handful are still waiting to come back including one family that is in a camp in Hong Kong.

The last 25 Cambodians from Malaysia's now-closed Sungei Besi refugee camp are expected to return home later this month and preparations for the return of between 40 to 50 who are in Thailand are now underway, UNHCR said.

"We expect a trickle to continue from other countries as well," Van der Vaart said, noting that several former refugees who had been granted French citizenship decided to return last month.

UNHCR Sees Threats Against Organization as "Serious"

GENEVA (AFP) – The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said Thursday it was taking "very seriously" threats issued against the organization by a Hutu rebel movement that wants to prevent it from operating in a troubled Burundian province.

"This is the kind of threat that we take seriously, especially in light of what happened to the ICRC," said UNHCR spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume.

She was referring to the June killing in the strife-torn province of Cibitóke, in northwest Burundi, of three international committees of the Red Cross workers.

Earlier Thursday, the party for the Liberation of the Hutu people (Palipehutu) warned the UNHCR to stay away from Cibitoke, the province most affected by ethnic fighting.

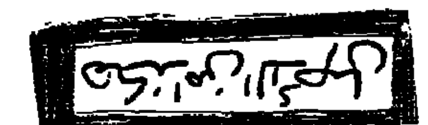
In a statement received in Nairobi, Palipehutu said its armed wing, the National Liberation Force (FNL), controlled 80 percent of the province bordering Zaire. No aid organizations have ventured there since the killing of the Red Cross workers.

Palipehut "forbids" the UNHCR from going to Cibitoke "for whatever reason" without its permission, the statement said, adding: "if the UNHCR decides to turn a deaf ear ... the FNL will not accept responsibility for the consequences."

Berthiaume said that the UNHCR was there to provide humanitarian assistance to all people, regardless of their ethnic origin.

The Burundian government last week pleaded for assistance to 22,500 refugees displaced by fighting in the Cibitoke region. The fighting has prompted some 6,500 people to flee to neighboring Rwanda and Zaire in the last eight days.

Last Saturday a UNHCR helicopter overflew the area and a decision on whether to send relief aid was to be taken this week depending on the security situation.



هكذا من الأصل

DENVER, CO, United States (July 9): Former Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm points to his new 800 campaign phone number at a press conference at Denver University in Denver, Colorado, where he announced his intentions to run for U.S. president. He will run under the Reform Party ticket.
(AFP PHOTO)

Tarbiyat Modarres University, Major Achievement of Islamic Revolution

Tehran Times Service



TEHRAN — Having been founded following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Tarbiyat Modarres University (TMU) has taken important steps toward initiating post-graduate programs in the country, said Chancellor of the university, Dr. Abbas Ali Tasnimi, in an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times*.

Elaborating on the objectives sought by the university, Tasnimi said, "After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the need for a university offering postgraduate courses was felt. According to the university's constitution, the main objective followed by the university is to train committed and pious instructors in order to promote higher education in the country."

He added that the TMU has paved the way for those seeking further knowledge to study post-graduate courses in the country, which is a great accomplishment in the postrevolution-era.

"The university has had a perpetual growth ever since its establishment. Currently, some 106 master's programs and 52 Ph.D. programs are offered at TMU. The university is divided into seven schools: Schools of Engineering, School of Basic Medical Science, School of Arts, School of Natural Resources and Marine Sciences, School of Basic Sciences, School of Agriculture and School of Humanities," Tasnimi noted.

Some 3,000 students are studying Ph.D. and master's programs at TMU. The university has already graduated 3,212 students, among whom there are 517 women graduates and 2,533 men graduates with master's degrees and 17 women graduates and 145 men graduates holding Ph.D. degrees, he said.

Regarding the number of the TMU academic staff, the chancellor noted that 312 full-time and 350 part-time instructors are on the staff of the university.

Expounding on the scientific activities conducted at the university, Tasnimi pointed out that some five to six of the model students chosen in the country every year are TMU students.

"In 1993, all and in 1994 nearly 75 percent of the model students were studying at the TMU for a Ph.D. degree. Also, in the former year, 50 percent and in the latter year, 23 percent of the model students studying for a master's degree were TMU students," the university chancellor stressed.

He went on to say that in 1995, nine out of 16 dissertations chosen as best by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance were presented by TMU students. In addition, some five books written by members of the university staff or students have won the award for the Best Book of the Year, Tasnimi added.

The university research scholar can receive a Ph.D. degree after completing their thesis only if one of their scientific articles is published in a prominent domestic or foreign scientific journal. This provision has been made to raise the students' scientific knowledge.

On the cooperation between the university and other educational and research centers throughout the world, the chancellor stressed that the TMU has signed several contracts and memorandums of understanding with nine other countries and that it has close cooperation with 15 scientific centers in China, Britain, Australia, India, Pakistan, Germany, Canada, Russia and France.

The TMU also participates actively in scientific seminars held abroad. Its staff members have already participated in 307 international seminars, where they have presented 221 scientific articles. Meanwhile, the university itself has organized 63 scientific congresses since its establishment, Tasnimi said.

He added that the university also invites the cooperation of foreign instructors and that since 1991, 66 foreign instructors have cooperated with the university.

Referring to the importance of research, particularly in the field of industry, TMU chancellor said that cooperation between universities and the industrial sector is vital to the country's development.

Tasnimi added that the experts working with TMU have provided several government organizations and ministries with research programs and that, currently, they have close cooperation with some 57 domestic research centers.

Meanwhile, he called on the government and people's representatives in the Parliament to do their utmost to remove the obstacles to the expansion of research work in the country.

Concerning the cultural programs handled by the TMU, he said that the students of the humanities have presented remarkable dissertations in cultural fields. "The faculty of humanities has recently announced its readiness to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) as well as the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in preparing cultural programs," he noted.

The chancellor further spoke on the future programs of the university. He said, "It is estimated that the number of students studying for a master's or Ph.D. degree would reach 7,250 including 2,286 Ph.D. and 4,964 master's degree students by the end of the country's Second Five-Year Development Plan. Furthermore, the number of the staff members is expected to rise to 796."

In conclusion, Tasnimi praised the recent guidelines of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, on observing and enforcing Islamic laws in universities. He said that the scientific teachings and activities in universities should serve to strengthen the principles of the Islamic Revolution. "Universities should have an Islamic-scientific identity", he added.

Serb Obstruction Stops Recovering Muslim Massacre Victims

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Finnish forensic experts working to recover the remains of around 100 Muslims killed near the eastern Srebrenica enclave have stopped work because of obstruction by Bosnian Serbs, a UN spokesman said Wednesday.

"The team has effectively ceased work in the Republika Srpska because of the obstructive attitude of the Republika Srpska authorities," UN spokesman Alexander Ivanko said.

The Finns had been due to collect the remains of around 100 Muslims scattered on the hillside in the Kravice region, close to the former Muslim enclave of Srebrenica which was overrun by Serb forces a year ago, Ivanko added.

At least 3,000 Muslim men of draft age are believed to have been murdered in the Srebrenica area following the enclave's fall last July, and another 5,000 men have remained unaccounted for.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his army commander Ratko Mladic have been indicted on genocide charges by a UN war crimes court as a result of the killings. The court, based in The Hague, is expected to issue international arrest warrants for the pair later this week.

The Finns left Srpska — the Serb entity within Bosnia-Herzegovina created by the Dayton peace accords for Bosnia — on Tuesday evening, said Ivanko.

"All the promises, guarantees that were given — surprise, surprise — did not materialize on the ground," he said. "Thanks to the Republika Srpska authorities another humanitarian project was not allowed to proceed."

The team, which includes six Bosnians and 20 Finns and which was escorted to the site by unarmed UN police monitors, had demanded precise security guarantees from the Serbs.

Police Find Huge Bomb in Sri Lankan Capital

COLOMBO (AFP) – Police said they had uncovered a powerful bomb weighing about 100 kilos (220 pounds) in Colombo Friday following the arrest of a suspected Tamil Tiger guerrilla.

The explosives were packed into eight containers, rigged with small batteries and switches to be mounted in a van for bombing a target in the Sri Lankan capital, deputy police Inspector-General T.B. Dissanayake told reporters here.

"This bomb could have caused huge destruction," Dissanayake said.

"We believe it is a Tiger bomb that was to be used in a suicide mission. There may be many more like this and we are on alert."

He said the bomb was similar to a van bomb that the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) sought to use in an unsuccessful attack on Colombo Airport last year.

Police also found a T-56 type automatic assault rifle, a nine-millimeter pistol and about 100 rounds of ammunition from a house in Wellawatte, an area where most of the minority Tamils are concentrated here.

He said the bomb was found after policemen at a roadblock were suspicious of a 21-year-old Tamil man who tried to bribe them to allow him through. He was promptly arrested, Dissanayake said.

The LTTE used a suicide bomber to drive a truck packed with explosives and detonate it at the Central Bank building here on January 31, killing 91 and wounding 1,400 others.

Since then, police have been detecting arms and ammunition hidden in several locations in the capital, which is under a tight security blanket.

Police have also issued an alert for possible Tiger suicide bombers, who are a trade mark of the LTTE.

Kamikaze bombers have been used successfully to assassinate political leaders as well as military commanders in the past nine years.

President, Government on Collision Course Over Parliament Speech

DHAKA (AFP) — President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Bangladesh's new government are on a collision course over his opening speech to the new session of Parliament on Sunday, government sources said Friday.

The president is balking at the speech submitted by the government, which praises Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's assassinated father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as the "country's founding father."

The speech, drawn up by the Awami League, outlines the government's future plans and achievements.

Rahman led Bangladesh to its independence in 1971 from Pakistan and was popularly called "Bangabandhu" or "friend of Bengal."

The sources said Biswas had reservations over that and had asked his officials to check Rahman's position in the constitution.

Sheikh Hasina led her Awami League to victory in the June 12 general election, defeating the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), of which the president is a senior member.

Months before his assassination in a 1975 military coup that toppled his post-independence Awami League government, Rahman's status as "father of the nation and Bangbandhu" was incorporated in the constitution.

According to constitutional experts the provision was not repealed by successive governments, but has been kept "suspended."

Sheikh Hasina, the leader of the 330-member house, face BNP — the single largest opposition group ever, with her arch-rival Khaleda Zia ready to challenge the new government at every opportunity.

According to government sources, despite BNP opposition, Sheikh Hasina wants to elect the country's next president, parliamentary speaker and his deputy on the basis of a consensus.

OIC Ministers Recommend Promotion of Communication in Rural Areas

TEHRAN (IRNA) – Telecommunication Ministers of the 52-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) approved here on Wednesday to hold the ministerial meeting once every three years and the technical and expertise seminar annually.

The ministerial meeting decided to register the telecommunications experts of the member states, launch technical and training cooperation, exchange experience, promote studies in the field as well as conduct expert studies by the OIC to draw up a mechanism for taking advantage of state assets and charity funds to develop telecommunications in rural areas.

Africa Determined to Pull Itself Up in the Millennium

YAOUNDE (AFP) – The 32nd summit of the Organization of African Unity closed here Wednesday with African leaders expressing their determination to pull the continent out of its current free-fall.

After three days of discussions centered on the growing ethnic violence in Burundi and other flash-points, the leaders agreed to hold their 33rd summit in Harare in early June 1977.

The annual summit has been dominated by the ethnic unrest in Burundi where fighting has left more than 150,000 people dead in the past three years.

The summit opened Monday in the presence of South African President Nelson Mandela, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and the heads of state or government of some 30 of the OAU's 53 member countries.

OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim said the resolution was passed by a "consensual majority" but it was harshly criticized on Wednesday by Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu who proposed that Africa should suggest another candidate to avoid confrontation with the United States.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State George Moose said Wednesday that Washington understood and appreciated Africa's support for Boutros-Ghali, but was of the view that the summit declaration was not a final and firm endorsement of his candidature.

The United States has said it will veto any attempt by Boutros-Ghali to serve another term. It blames him for the failure of UN missions in Somalia and Bosnia.

